



"Touch the Earth" by Mary Southard

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Trinity Sunday

Welcome to worship with the First Baptist Church of Christ

Whatever road has brought you here and wherever you should go once we depart, know that you are welcome in this space fully and completely, and that the image of God we all bear together this hour is more complete because you are here as a part of it.

Things to Know

Masks are now optional on the church campus. We understand there are those within the congregation who will need or want to continue to wear masks, and we will continue to keep masks around the church for those who may want to use them.

Restrooms can be found through the double doors on the side near the elevator, one flight of stairs up or one flight down.

Participate in the service as much or as little as you like. Stand when others stand, or remain seated. Sing when others sing, or enjoy the way this old sanctuary fills with sound. Invitations to stand as you are able are marked with an asterisk (*). Invitations to respond in word or song are noted in bold.

For Those With Children

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. Parents with infants are more than welcome to remain in the sanctuary, or ushers can direct you down the back stairs to a comfortable room with sound from the sanctuary so all can still hear the service. A nursery is provided for children younger than 3. Preschoolers (age 3-Kindergarten) are invited to leave after “Let the Children Come” for our W.O.W. (Working on Worship) experience.

For Those with Special Needs

Thank you for joining us for worship! We love our historic buildings, but know they can be a challenge for those with mobility needs. Know that we are committed to doing all we can to make this space welcoming to everyone. Reserved seating for those in wheel chairs and those sitting with them is found near the elevator, and is marked with signs on the walls and on the back of the pews. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher for assistance. If you have special hearing needs, please ask one of the ushers to bring you a hearing assistance device from the sound booth in the back, or feel free to go back there and get one. An accessible restroom is located up one floor across from the office. If you, or someone with you, requires special assistance for any reason, please find a minister or an usher.

THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

Rita Brown, *acolyte*

The Prelude

"Prelude Processional"
Anne Armstrong, organ

David Johnson

The Call to Worship

Zack Jackson

In the beginning, God created this world out of a formless void,

And the creation is very good.

Before water sprang forth, mountains were formed, or fields grew from soil, the Spirit of Wisdom was with God,

Inspiring, rejoicing, and delighting in the beauty of creation.

In the beginning the Word was with God, who is the light for all people,

Who brought creation into being, then became part of creation.

Since the beginning, Three in One have created, called, saved, and sustained.

Blessed are you, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!

*The Hymn of Praise 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

**Come, Thou Almighty King, help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious, come, and reign over us, ancient of Days.**

**Come, Thou Incarnate Word, gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend! Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success: Spirit of holiness, on us descend.**

**Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.**

**To Thee, great One in Three, the highest praises be,
Hence evermore; Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.**

*The Invocation

JD Granade

*The Gloria Patri 705

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.**

The Welcome

Kelsey Stillwell

“Let the Children Come”

JD Granade

Children in 3K-K are invited to W.O.W., a preschool worship experience! We will meet with the W.O.W. Shepherds at the end of “Let the Children Come.” Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 669 Long Ago You Taught Your People

NETTLETON

**Long ago You taught Your people "Part of what you reap is mine —
From your cattle, bring the first-born; tithe the crops of field and vine."
Though beneath the law's restrictions we are not compelled to live,
As we reap our daily harvest, make us eager, Lord to give.**

**What a way of life You showed us through the Son You gladly gave:
Never snared by earthly treasure, buried in a borrowed grave—
Yet to all He freely offered riches of the deepest kind:
Let us live with His example firmly fixed in heart and mind.**

**In the lifestyle of the Spirit giving has a central part;
Teach us, Lord, this grace of sharing with a cheerful, loving heart—
Not a tiresome obligation, not a barren legal due,
But an overflow of worship: all we have belongs to You!**

*The Offertory Prayer

Andrew Manis
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“Spirit of Mercy, Truth and Love”

Howard Helvey

The Chancel Choir

Spirit of mercy, truth and love, O shed your influence from above;
And still from age to age convey the wonders of this sacred day.

In every clime, by every tongue be God’s eternal glory sung;
Let all the listening earth confess the Name that claims our faithfulness.

Unfailing Comfort, heavenly Guide, still over your holy Church preside;
Descend upon us like a dove, Spirit of mercy, truth and love.

from Psalms, Hymns and Anthems, 1774

*The Offertory Response 341

“Doxology”

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

John 16:12-15

Romelle Jones

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Scott Dickison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

Does not wisdom call
and understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
“To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all who live.
The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
when he had not yet made earth and fields
or the world’s first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker,
and I was daily his delight,
playing before him always,
playing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.
For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

THE BREAD AND CUP OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Communion Solo

"There Is a Savior"
Stanley L. Roberts, baritone

arr. Tom Fettke

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

The Hymn of Commitment 6 Creator God, Creating Still

ST. ANNE

**Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,
Create a new desire in us to meet the present need.**

**Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace,
Pour out Your love on us, through us, make this a holy place.**

**Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day,
Empower us now to do Your will. Correct us when we stray.**

**Great Trinity, for this day we need Your presence still.
Create, redeem, sustain us now to do Your work and will.**

Benediction

Scott Dickison

The Congregational Response 512 "We Go in Peace"

Keith Christopher

**We go in peace, we go in love,
We go with grace and mercy from the Lord above
To tell the world this very thing:
That Jesus Christ is Lord and King. Jesus Christ is Lord and King.**

Postlude

"Fugue in D Major"
Anne Armstrong, organ

William Selby



Our Life Together

Sunday, June 12

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship with Communion
 12:15 pm Church Council
 4:00 pm VBS volunteer meeting

Saturday, June 18

8:00 am Day of Missions

Sunday, June 19

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

June 9 Linda Manis
 June 16 Ruth Hunt

Birthdays

June 12 Vivienne Brainard
 Bryan Whitfield
 June 13 Joe Lease
 Elizabeth Nava
 June 14 Joe Johnson
 June 17 Gloria Bass
 June 18 Elizabeth O'Dell Eidson
 Zach Hardy
 Annabel Ingoldsby

Condolences

We grieve with Megan and Ben Sapp in the death of Megan's mother, **Carol Strandburg**, on Saturday, May 14.

Women's Book Club

Sunday, July 10 at 6:00 pm
 5377 White House Plantation

Our next meeting will be at the home of Kerri Thompson. We have selected *The Secret of Magic* by Deborah Johnson. Kathy McCollum will facilitate our discussion.

Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to honor someone or a special event? You can do this by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers on a Sunday. The following dates are open for the rest of 2022: June 26; July 3; August 21 and 28; September 11, 18, and 25; October. 2, 16, 23 and 30, November 6 and 13, and December 25. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard, or click on this link to access the SignUp Genius calendar yourself.

The Sanctuary Flower Servant Team needs more Monday flower arrangers and also flower delivery folks. Please call Fay Boie at 478-719-0931 if you are interested in either position. The Monday folks divide the Sunday flowers into smaller arrangements, and the delivery folks take the arrangements to church members who are ill, recovering from surgery, homebound, grieving, etc. The recipients of the flowers are always very grateful.

Missions

FBCX Day of Missions

Saturday, June 18 8:00 am–2:00 pm

Loving One Another with Heart, Mind and Body.

Meet at the church for breakfast and fellowship before dismissing into small groups. Groups will work with local ministries, and some will have conversations around a particular mission or advocacy topic with leaders in these areas.

We will end our day together at FBCX for lunch and, to share experiences & listen for how God is inviting us into God's mission.

Childcare will be provided through Pre-K, and work projects will be available for elementary-aged students.

Please use the link in the Highlites to sign up before the event so we can plan groups and meals accordingly.

Children



Compassion Camp VBS

June 20–24, 9:00 am–12:15 pm

This summer children who have completed PreK-5th grade are invited to Compassion Camp as we explore how to "Be Loved, Be Kind, Be You!" Scan the QR code to

register children and receive more information closer to the week of VBS.



Save the Dates:

July 2: Children's ministry pool party

July 30: Summer Wrap-up event



Language Ministry

Dear Church Family,

As we close the twenty-sixth year of this ministry, we would be remiss not to express our gratitude for the prayerful support of our church, church staff, and Missions Committee. Scott Dickison, Kelsey Stillwell, JD Granade, Connie Pursiful, Karen Ebey-Tessendorf, and Connie Jones have paved the way with their leadership, interest, and encouragement. We thank each of you for your continued backing and approval.

Of course, a school would not be a school without teachers and assistants. Thanks be to God for our wonderful Language Ministry staff, who are the strength and core of the ministry. Paula Strozier, Lucy Wilson, Beth Walker, and Marina Spears are teachers of English. Yumiko Jones leads the Japanese class, and Antoinette Reid teaches Spanish via Zoom. Mary Leonard and Mary Tribble make up the Hospitality Team. Steve Marlow is Paula's assistant and leader of our music. How blessed we are to have such a remarkable and talented staff who share their love, time, and expertise for the benefit of students.

We thank Gwen Colwell for her service to the ministry as well. Not only was she an excellent director for the language program, but also she researched and penned our history, enabling us to connect with our past.

We are grateful to have been able to offer our classes in-person starting September, 2021. However, we felt the sting of COVID

throughout the school year. Even though internationals from ten countries responded, our enrollment and attendance was much lower than expected. Therefore we are seeking ways this summer to reach more internationals and home folks who are interested in learning a second language.

We invite you to help us spread the news that classes in English, Spanish and Japanese will convene once again on September 7, God willing. You can find information flyers in the Sunday school folders starting in early July. Also there will be flyers on tables here and there in the church. In addition, we are printing small cards with school information that can be easily handed to any prospective student. Please consider taking flyers and small cards with you when you are out and about in our community. Thank you.

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him by serving others. Yes, we give our time, but the blessings far outweigh the efforts.

Sareta Shelburne
Language Ministry Coordinator



Now. Here. This.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to do one of the coolest and hardest things I'll likely ever do. I joined three other gentlemen from our church—Shaun Kell, Doug Thompson, and Troy Tarpley—in a rim-to-rim run/hike of the Grand Canyon.

It's hard to put into words the experience of simply gazing over the rim of the canyon and seeing the expanse of an inverted mountain (it's roughly 12,000 feet from the rim to the canyon floor). But to go down into this expanse and see it up close was another thing altogether.

For instance, what appears from the top to be the bottom of the canyon is really only a plateau about halfway down. The canyon goes into steep decline at the level known as the “Redwall Limestone,” with the rest of the descent hidden from view from the top.

Likewise, from the bottom of the canyon, standing on the banks of the Colorado River, the giant cliffs overhead appear to be the rim, and yet they only rise about 3,000—just a quarter of the full canyon depth.

The scale boggles the mind—or as Shaun put it, “bottles” the mind; it makes words hard to come by and even stifles the imagination. What does it mean to put one's hand on a rock that is 1.8 billion years old—half the age of the earth?

Or to soak one's feet in the river whose constant motion over the past 5 to 6 million years is responsible for the whole thing, slowly pulling away bits of rock, and at a pace utterly ambivalent to human life?

It's no wonder the canyon has been set aside as a holy place by the Hopi people and other indigenous groups who have made the canyon their home for thousands of years.

Even within Christianity, there has long been a notion of the “Scripture of nature,” or the belief that the Creator is best known through the creation. That the natural world has much to tell us about God and ourselves.

So it is with respect to this tradition of the “Scripture of nature” that I offer the following observations and reflections on our time in the canyon:

It is good and right, at least on occasion, to be reminded of our smallness. There are certainly times when we must be reminded that the God of creation loves us and knows us by name. But other times it is necessary to be reminded that against the scale of the universe we are but dust. The truth of human life is found in the balance of these two realities.

There is beauty to be found even in loss. We think of beauty most often as having to do with some notion of wholeness or completion. The canyon stands as a gaping hole cutting a plateau in half through the displacement of sand and rock. It is a wound, and yet it is utterly beautiful, and rich with life. The same can be true of our losses and our wounds, with time and reflection.

Change most often happens not by singular transcendent acts, but through small, consistent movement over a period of time. Sometimes for a long period of time! This is as true in social movements as it is in our own spiritual lives. Discipleship is, in the words of Eugene Peterson, “a long obedience in the same direction.” It is a series of small choices, small habits, rooted in compassion and fairness and generosity and grace that over time amount to a way of living.

The Grand Canyon is evidence that this slow change over time is how mountains are literally moved.

SHD

Signs of the Season

The paraments of the pulpit and the communion table are visible reminders of the current season of the church year. The color white on Trinity Sunday represents the holiness and oneness of God.

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