



Jerusalem at Sunset, George Duffield, National Geographic

Sunday, June 26, 2022
Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

Jillian Dumas, acolyte

The Prelude "Alla Marcia" John Marsh

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship "Love the Lord" Lincoln Brewster

*Compassion Camp Singers
Rebecca Cooke, Conductor*

*The Hymn of Praise 19 I Sing the Mighty Power of God FOREST GREEN

**I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with His Word, and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;**

**While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.**

*The Invocation Rebecca Pursiful

*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 JD Granade

"Let the Children Come" JD Granade

There will be no W.O.W. through the month of July. Children 3k-Kindergarten are welcome to stay with their families for all of worship or spend the rest of the service in childcare in the nursery area. JD will walk them over at this time; please find JD at the end of worship if you need directions to childcare.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of
Offertory 671

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.**

**Treasure, too, You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all**

*The Offertory Prayer

Dee Bratcher
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing
The Chancel Choir
Joy Dumas, conductor

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise.

Sing Alleluia!

All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever,
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, Praise Him forever.
Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever.

So let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise.

Sing Alleluia!

Text: Gordon Young

**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

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Gwen Colwell

I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the LORD;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of old.
I will meditate on all your work
and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.
With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah
When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.
The clouds poured out water;
the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.
The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.
Your way was through the sea,
your path through the mighty waters,
yet your footprints were unseen.

You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

JD Granade

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.

The Second Lesson

Luke 9:51-62

Kelsey Stillwell

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Kelsey Stillwell

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

The Hymn of
Commitment 502

Lord, I Lay My Life Before You

IN BABILONE

**Lord, I lay my life before You, here, I give to You my all.
 I will follow where You lead me: I have heard your Spirit call.
 I will live my life in service as a mirror of Your grace—
 Living always in Your presence, looking always toward Your face.**

**Savior, let me share the message with the people all around
 That Your mercy will not fail them: that with You, peace can be found.
 Fill my heart with true compassion for each lost and lonely soul:
 Help me lead them to your love, Lord, where each life can be made whole.**

**As I came before Your presence, Lord, true worship I would bring.
 Of Your never ending favor, let my heart forever sing.
 May my worship be made holy as I come before Your throne,
 And each gift of praise I offer be to You, and You alone.**

**Savior, keep me ever near You as I travel down this road.
 Let me always lean on You, Lord, for the strength to bear the load.
 Lord, remind me, on this journey I will never be alone.
 You will guide me and protect me, for You claim me as Your own.**

Benediction

Kelsey Stillwell

The Congregational Response 481

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
 For I am with you 'til the age shall end,
 When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen."
 Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

"Festivity on HOLY MANNA"
 Anne Armstrong, organ

Douglas Wagnerr



Sunday, June 26

9:45 am

Sunday school

11:00 am

Worship

Monday, June 27

9:00 am

Crisis Closet

9:00 am

Circle of Hope

Sunday, July 3

9:45 am

Sunday school

11:00 am

Worship

Monday, July 4

Office closed

Deacons of the Week

June 23

Dee Bratcher

Birthdays

June 27

Darlene Flaming

Joe Gatins

Justina Primo

June 28

Tara Moscardelli

June 29

Jo Ann Tanton

June 30

Fred Bongiovanni

Shawna Dooley

Pat Painter

July 3

Barbara Pickens

Condolences

We grieve with Richard, Jan, and Rachel Green on the death of Richard's mother, **Louise Pinkham** on June 21.

We grieve with Mary Tribble on the death of her brother, **Michael Goslin** on June 22.

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: July 3; August 21 and 28; September 11, 18, and 25; October. 2, 16, 23 and 30, and November 13. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard, or follow the link in the Highlites!

Sanctuary Flower Servant Team

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.

Summer Combined Sunday School Series

July 10-31

Join us in the fellowship hall during the Sunday school hour July 10, 17, 24, and 31 for our combined summer series. Each week we will explore a different highlight from our church vision statement, "The First Baptist Church of Christ at Macon nurtures authentic faith and belonging, loves and serves courageously, and affirms the image of God in all people." Or as we often shorten it, "Nurture. Love. Serve. All."

Each week will feature a panel of speakers from within the congregation who will reflect on their understanding of these words from the content of their own life, faith, and time in our church. It will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know longtime members and newer members alike.

We will also enjoy breakfast together! Join us!

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.

Children

Save the Dates:

July 9: Children's ministry pool party

July 30: Summer Wrap-up event

Youth

Save the Dates:

July 6, July 13: Wednesday Hang Out

July 10: Upcoming 6th grader Dinner and a movie





Now. Here. This.

When I think about my journey to where I am now as an openly gay Christian at FBCX, there are two factors that stand out for me: a search for belonging and a shift in perspective.

When I joined the church about 25 years ago, I was living a two-part life. The public part was what I showed to the world and the private side was the part I felt I had to hide to avoid rejection from any wider community, religious or otherwise. Over the years, I began to feel as though I was in the church, yet on the outside because I couldn't really be the authentic version of myself I needed to be and also be a part of the congregation at the same time. I wasn't even sure at the time if church was a place where I could really, truly belong.

Several years later, when I started attending with my husband Tom, I was still somehow stuck in that two-part mindset. Though things were changing, it hadn't occurred to me that I could be completely comfortable in my own skin at church and I was still a bit on guard at first. It took the church resolution welcoming LGBTQ people to make me suddenly realize that for once I could relax at church and know that I was truly welcomed and accepted as I was. Though I'd never felt unwelcome at FBCX, it took that shift in perspective for me to see that I could be my full self and at the same time just blend in like any other church member as if it's no big deal. This was the point where I saw our motto to Nurture, Love, and Serve All really come to life for me. It changed my view of

what a church community could be. Acceptance doesn't have to be a parade with rainbow flags. It starts with meeting people where they are, as they are, and making that journey together.

Jeff has been a member at First Baptist since 2002. He and his husband Tom were married at the church in 2018.

Signs of the Season

The paraments of the pulpit and the communion table are visible reminders of the current season of the church year. Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost and ends with Advent. During this season, we celebrate the "ordinary events" of our Christian lives. The liturgical color for this season is green, symbolizing life, freshness, and hope.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers this morning are made of the decorations used for Compassion Camp this past week. The arrangement was made by Mary Leonard.

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AND MISSIONS