



Photograph by Jaime Casap

Sunday, July 3, 2022
Fourth 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

Ford Myrick, acolyte

The Prelude

“Procession”

Charles Callahan

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Rebecca Pursiful

Bend Your ear to me and listen to my words, O Eternal One; hear the deep cry of my heart.

Listen to my call for help, my King, my True God; to You alone I pray.

In the morning, O Eternal One, listen for my voice; in the day’s first light,

I will offer my prayer to You and watch expectantly for Your answer.

You’re not a God who smiles at sin; You cannot abide with evil.

You hate all who pervert and destroy what is good.

Yet I, by Your loving grace, am welcomed into Your house;

I will turn my face toward Your holy place and fall on my knees in reverence before You.

from Psalm 5

*The Hymn of Praise 158

Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

**Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
Honor and glory to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud “Amen”!**

*The Invocation

Zack Jackson

*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

Stanley Roberts

“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 697

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, Thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations;
Let Thy reign come; on earth Thy will be done.
In peace may all earth's people draw together,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, Thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give Thee; let Thy will be done.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Eric Spears
Vice Chair of Deacon

The Offertory

“If My People”
Stanley L. Roberts, baritone

Jimmy Owens

*The Offertory Response 131

“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

Galatians 6:1-16

Maddie Meyer

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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 trespassed 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

1 Kings 21:1-21

Bryan Whitfield

Later the following events took place: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. And Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; I will give you a better vineyard for it, or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance." Ahab went home resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you my ancestral inheritance." He lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would not eat.

His wife Jezebel came to him and said, "Why are you so depressed that you will not eat?" He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it,' but he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" His wife Jezebel said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal; she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. She wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the assembly; seat two scoundrels opposite him, and have them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death." The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. Just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the assembly. The two scoundrels came in and sat opposite him, and the scoundrels brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead."

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive but dead." As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to

take possession. You shall say to him: Thus says the Lord: Have you killed and also taken possession? You shall say to him: Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood.”

Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, I will bring disaster on you; I will consume you and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel,

The Sermon

“The Right of Force, or the Force of Right?”

Bryan Whitfield

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of
Commitment 698

For the Healing of the Nations

CWM RHONDDA

**For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing
Of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action
Help us rise and pledge our word,
Help us rise and pledge our word.
Lead us forward into freedom;
From despair Your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
All may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
Fear will die and hope increase,
Fear will die and hope increase.
All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race, or schooling,
Dogmas that obscure Your plan.
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life's brief span,
May we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator, God, have written
Your great name on humankind;
For our growing in Your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service
Earth its destiny may find,
Earth its destiny may find.**

* The Benediction

Bryan Whitfield

*The Congregational
Response 481

Go to the World!
(stanza 4)

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!**

The Postlude

"America, the Beautiful"
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. Anna Laura Page



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, July 3

9:45 am Sunday school
11:00 am Worship

Monday, July 4

Office closed

Wednesday, July 6

6:00 - 8:00 pm Youth Hangout

Saturday, July 9

5:00 pm Children's pool party

Sunday, July 10

9:45 am Sunday school
11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

July 7 Harriet Eason

Birthdays

July 3 Barbara Pickens

July 7 Robyn Candler

Ben Sapp

Marilyn Tucker

July 8 Rachel Green

July 9 Olivia McMillan

July 10 Dan Davis

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.

We grieve with the family of **Jan Taylor** on her death on June 26.

Save the Date

July 30: Summer wrap up for children, youth, and their families

July 13: Youth Hang Out 6:00-8:00pm

July 10: Upcoming 6th grader dinner and movie

Summer Sunday School

July 10, 17, 24, and 31

Fellowship Hall

Join us in the during the Sunday school hour 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." 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!

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.

New Address for Jack and Gwen:

Jack and Gwen Colwell ,87 Glennmary Lane W., Richmond Hill, GA 31324-3747
jackclwll1961@gmail.com

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, 23 and 30, and November 13. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard, or follow the link in the Highlites!



NOW. HERE. THIS.

This summer I am interning here at the church I have grown up in. As a child or youth, there are many opportunities to lead in worship so that you get more comfortable as a member of the church. Between these opportunities, the fact that my mom works in the church office, and the fact that I am often asked to fill in at the last minute, there are very few parts of worship that I have not led in some fashion. In my nineteen years at this church, I have read Scripture, led the children's sermon, sung solos, sung in the choir, led the invocation, and I have even led a few meditations.

As some of you might remember, on my first day participating in worship as *the intern*, I was leading the call to worship. What happened at this particular call to worship is now known as the Incident at my house. In theory, this is the easiest part of worship to lead because all you have to do is read your lines off the bulletin. I processed onto the stage with the rest of the ministers and got behind the pulpit to lead the call to worship. Then, halfway through, I read the congregation line instead of the leader line. There was a beat where I waited for the congregation to read their next line. Once I figured out what had happened, I said "Nope!" and read the correct line. Thankfully, I had my choir background to fall back on. It had been drilled into me since I was eight years old that if you make a mistake on stage you don't react. You keep going as if nothing happened and the audience won't notice. Needless to say, as it was my first day as the intern, I was very embarrassed.

Earlier that week, it was revealed in the staff meeting that the Marie's cancer had come back, and she was having surgery for it on the Friday before the Incident. As I watched the recording of the service afterwards, I noticed that Stanley was downright giggling at my goof.

Stanley is one of my best encouragers and has done much for me specifically and for all of us. It didn't matter to me in the slightest that he was laughing at me. I was able to give him some joy in return for all he has given me. I am not upset at myself because I messed up. Knowing that I gave Stanley a good laugh in this weird time made this mistake a definite win.

As I returned to my seat, after the Incident, I remembered one of the conversations from Student.Church orientation about worship design. The presenter talked about all the steps that go into planning a worship service. Once we had a good handle on what all the steps were, she got a little bit more serious and told us to throw it all out the window. She said that as much as we can plan a worship service with our own message, we are not planning that service. Each worship service is God sending the message that God wants everyone to have. Sometimes the wrong hymn number goes in the bulletin, or the Scripture reader gets the flu and can't come, or the intern misreads the call to worship. But all of that is fine and even good, because when worship falls apart, God is shining through the cracks.

Rebecca Pursiful

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table are visual 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.

The American Flag

The American flag is placed in the Sanctuary on the Sundays nearest Presidents’ Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans’ Day as an expression of our gratitude to God for the freedom we enjoy as Americans.

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Mrs. Connie Pursiful
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Miss Rebecca Pursiful
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MINISTER OF MUSIC

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH
AND MISSIONS