



High Place Audrey Dickison

**September 18, 2022**

**Fifteenth 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.

### **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

*Evie Wallace, acolyte*

The Prelude

**“Processional in C”**  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Michael Helman

The Call to Worship

Allie Ford

Let us sing hymns in unison

**For we are not many, but one!**

Let us praise our God in harmony,

**for we are not one, but many.**

Members are we, one of another: the body of Christ, the people of God.

**Let our melodies rise as if from one voice, while the chorus swells from each mouth to creation.**

\*The Hymn of Praise 550

Come, We That Love the Lord

MARCHING TO ZION

**Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord,  
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.**

Refrain:

**We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.**

**Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;  
But children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King  
May speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. [Refrain]**

**The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,  
Before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. [Refrain]**

**Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
To fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. [Refrain]**

\*The Invocation

Kelsey Stillwell

\*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 W.O.W. shepherds this week are Sonya Milam and Emma Stephens.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 488 Come, All Christians, Be Committed

BEACH SPRING

**Come, all Christians, be committed to the service of the Lord;  
Make your lives for Him more fitted, tune your hearts with one accord.  
Come into His courts with gladness, each his sacred vows renew,  
turn away from sin and sadness, be transformed with life anew.  
Give your time and talents daily, they are gifts from God above;  
To be used by Christians freely to proclaim His wondrous love.  
Come again to serve the Savior, tithes and offerings with you bring.  
In your work, with Him find favor, and with joy His praises sing.  
God’s command to love each other is required of every one;  
Showing mercy to another mirrors His redeeming Son.  
In compassion He has given of His love that is divine;  
On the cross sins were forgiven; joy and peace are fully thine.  
Come in praise and adoration, all who on Christ’s name believe;  
Worship Him with consecration, grace and love you will receive.  
For His grace give Him the glory, for the Spirit and the Word,  
And repeat the gospel story till the world His name has heard.**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Shannon Hart  
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory

“I Will Sing With the Spirit”  
*The Chancel Choir*

John Rutter

I will sing with the Spirit,  
I will sing with the Spirit.  
Alleluia, alleluia...  
I will sing with the Spirit,  
I will sing with the Spirit.  
Alleluia, alleluia...

And I will sing with the understanding also,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: 1 Corinthians 14:15

\*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

Romans 12:1-8

Susan Johansen

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**



**Lord, make us servants of Your peace; where there is hate, may we sow love;  
Where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
Where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,  
Nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,  
For in our giving we receive and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying we live, and are reborn, through death's dark night to endless day.  
Lord, make us servants of Your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.**

\*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

\* The Congregational Response Christians, Let Us Go and Serve Him

HOLY MANNA

**Christians, let us go and serve Him,  
Serve the one who gives us life.  
Let us serve in love and power,  
In the name of Jesus Christ  
Serve in love and serve in wisdom,  
Reaching all we know and see.  
Christians, let us go and serve Him,  
Now and through eternity.**

Postlude

Postlude on JEFFERSON  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Charles Callahan



# Our Life Together

## Sunday, September 18

9:45 am Combined Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship  
 6:00 pm Women's Book Club

## Wednesday, September 21

9:30 am Language Ministry  
 4:00 pm Open time in youth room  
 and children's center  
 5:30 pm Youth Choir  
 5:30 pm Family Dinner  
 6:00 pm Young Musicians and  
 Music Makers  
 6:15 pm Youth "Unplugged"  
 6:30 pm Language Ministry  
 Choir Practice  
 Adult Bible Study  
 6:45 pm Kids on Mission

## September 23-25

Women's Retreat

## Sunday, September 25

9:45 am Sunday school  
 11:00 am Worship

## Deacon of the Week

September 15 Shannon Hart  
 September 22 Suzy Nicholson

## Birthdays

September 18 Kathy McCollum  
 Karen Summerlin  
 Wallace Taylor  
 September 19 Robert McCord  
 Lynn Scott  
 September 20 Jennifer Barkin  
 Harriet Eason  
 Rick McCann

September 22 Jennifer McMahan  
 Kay Sexton  
 September 23 Ruth Hunt  
 Anna Knight  
 September 25 Glenda Ferguson  
 Kathy Findley  
 Tony Kight  
 Linda Manis  
 Brett Northenor

### Condolences:

We grieve with Craig and Jennifer McMahan and their family on the death of their son-in-law, **Steve Ayers**, on Sept. 8.

### Save the Date:

**October 2:** Celebration for JD  
 World Communion Sunday  
**October 26:** Quarterly Conference  
 to discuss budget  
**October 30:** Vote on Budget  
 Fall Festival  
**November 6:** Commitment Sunday

### The Record Speaks

Date:	08/31/22
Budget to Date:	\$437,684
Receipts:	\$381,370
Expenses:	\$463,632
Missions:	\$34,541
	(\$82,261)*

\*Parentheses indicate a negative balance

## Wednesday Night Supper

Scan this QR code to make a reservation for Wednesday night supper by this afternoon. You can pay by using the church's giving app or by check or cash on Wednesday night.



## Women's Book Club Sunday, September 18 116 Waterford Place

We will discuss *NATIVE: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering* by Kaitlin Curtice. We will gather at 6 pm at the home of Carrie Ingoldsby.

## Deacon Ballot

Each fall, the First Baptist Church of Christ congregation has the opportunity and privilege of helping select those who will serve as deacons in our community of faith. The deadline to vote is October 2. You may vote by dropping a ballot into the boxes in the education lobby or office lobby, emailing your votes to the church office, or following the link in the Highlites.

## Sanctuary Flower Signup

Would you like to honor someone or a special event by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers on a Sunday? There is just one open Sunday remaining on the flower calendar for the rest of 2022: October 2. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard, or click on this link to access the SignUp Genius calendar yourself.

## Goodbye Gathering for JD Granade October 2 Fellowship Hall

Bring a breakfast item to share and join us in the fellowship hall to thank JD for his time among us.

## World Communion Sunday October 2, 2022

We will join congregations around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday as we demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. This has become a beloved tradition at FBCX. We celebrate, mindful of the diversity of churches that gather and how we are all a part of God's mission in the world. We also celebrate diverse cultures and traditions within our congregation as we taste bread that is significant to the church members who make them.

**Bread baking:** If you have a bread recipe that is special to you, your family, or your heritage and would be willing to bake it for us, we would love to use it for our altar. Contact Kelsey if you want to bake bread for this special service.

**All Saints and Commitment  
Sunday  
Guest Preacher, Charles E. Poole  
November 6**

We are thrilled to welcome Chuck Poole back to First Baptist as our guest preacher for Commitment Sunday.

Chuck served as pastor at FBCX from 1986 until 1994. Most recently, he served as pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi until his retirement at the end of August.

He will be the keynote speaker for CBFGA's fall assembly in Augusta later that day. More information to come.



**Meet our new ministry intern,  
Allie Ford!**

From Birmingham, Alabama, Allie is a freshman at Mercer University pursuing degrees in Religion and English Secondary Education. After college, she plans to attend seminary and follow her calling to minister to young people and foster an inclusive and authentic faith community. Allie is incredibly excited to get involved with the FBCX children and youth ministries. In her spare time, Allie enjoys hiking, talking about the Enneagram, and watching her favorite TV show, *The Office*.

**YOUTH**

**Community Youth Group- Tonight**

5:00-7:00pm at Centenary Church  
Dinner, fellowship, and missions  
Let Kelsey know if you're attending.

**CHILDREN**

**Save the date:**

**October 30:** Fall festival 4:00 to 6:00 pm

**November 11-13:** Camping Trip. Sign up by September 30. (Link in Highlightes.)



## Now. Here. This.

“Some things you know all your life,” writes the poet, Philip Levine, in his poem, “The Simple Truth.”

“They are so simple and true they must be said without elegance, meter and rhyme, they must be laid on the table beside the salt shaker, the glass of water, the absence of light gathering in the shadows of picture frames, they must be naked and alone, they must speak for themselves.”

I first read these words as a senior in college in the first of two creative classes I would take that year. I remember it as one of the first times a work of great art spoke to me on what I can only call a spiritual level.

In many ways, Levine’s words describe my own faith. Though it has changed and been challenged and grown through the years (which I hope will continue), it is something I have known all my life. Raised in the church. Learning stories from the Bible even before I knew what a story was. My mother humming hymns around the house. The rhythms of congregational life. Worship on Sunday, returning on Wednesday, covered dishes for anniversary Sunday, candle light at Christmas.

Yet, in recent years as I’ve reflected more on this poem and what has grown to be so many others like it, I have come to appreciate just how much poetry and literature are some of the more effective and enjoyable doorways I have to matters of the heart.

They are the lens through which I tend to view most of my writing and preaching for you (the inclusion of esoteric poems in sermons being among the clumsier expressions!).

In short, I have come to see my ministry, and my own faith, as a creative process. It is also how I have come to understand the church, as something that we make together, with the help of the same animating, creative spirit that hovered over the waters of creation.

So it is in that spirit that I am beginning a new degree program this fall. I have been accepted into the low residency MFA program in creative writing at Queens University in Charlotte. This masters of fine arts program is a two year degree that will provide a community with which to hone my craft, but also training in literary criticism and the teaching of writing.

Since it is low-residency, most of the coursework will be done remotely, with a week’s residency on campus in January and again in May.

Nearly ten years (!) into my time as pastor I am at the point in my career when continuing education becomes more and more a necessity to keep the work and the call fresh. I am excited to see how this program renews my spirit and expands my toolkit of creative expression, and the ways it will shape my work in the years to come.

I am grateful for the support of the Personnel Committee and Church Council in pursuing this degree, and grateful to be a part of a congregation who understands the gifts, not only of continued education, but of art.

I will look forward to updating you along the way, but I hope before long my experience in this program will begin to speak, or stand, for itself.

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. 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 given for the Glory of God and in memory of Patricia W. Henderson on the one-year anniversary of her death. Marla, Zoe and Zachary Potts would like to say “thank you” to all who took their time to send cards and letters during her time in our faith community. She was a long-time member of FBC Morrow, Georgia.



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## Staff and Leadership

**Anne Armstrong**  
ORGANIST

**Kristine Buchanan**  
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

**Rev. Scott Dickison**  
PASTOR

**David Cooke**  
CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

**Harriet Eason**  
CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Allie Ford**  
MINISTRY INTERN

**Rev. JD Granade**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHILDREN  
AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Tierra Johnson**  
CUSTODIAN

**Bradley Lott**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Connie Pursiful**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Rebecca Pursiful**  
MINISTRY INTERN

**Dr. Stanley L. Roberts**  
MINISTER OF MUSIC

**Eric Spears**  
VICE CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Rev. Kelsey Stillwell**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH  
AND MISSIONS