



Saint Onesimus

Sunday, September 4, 2022
Thirteenth 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

Finn Wallace, Acolyte

Prelude

"Trumpet Tune"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Roy Bruner

The Call to Worship

JD Granade

Happy are they who know good and do good.

Their love for what is right feeds them continually.

They are like trees planted near the river,
whose roots go deep and wide.

**They thrive, bear fruit in season, and
weather drought without wilting.**

Those who are not so grounded
will blow around like dry leaves in the wind.

Root yourself in good, and live.

Adapted from an improvisation on Psalm 1,
by Christine Robinson, Psalms for a New World

*The Hymn of Praise 337

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise Him for His grace and favor to His people in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.**

**Fatherlike, He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows;
Motherlike, He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.**

**Angels in the height, adore Him; you behold Him face to face;
Saints triumphant, bow before Him, gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.**

*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.**

The Words of Welcome

Scott Dickison

"Let the Children Come"

JD Granade

Children in 3K-Kindergarten 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" and go to the Seekers' classroom together. Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship. The W.O.W. shepherds this week are Audrey Dickison and Maddie Cooke.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 273 In Christ There Is No East or West

MCKEE

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord, close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as His child is surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West; in Him meet South and North:
All Christlike souls are one in Him throughout the whole wide earth.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Scott Walker
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

"O God Beyond All Praising"
The Chancel Choir

THAXTED
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
arr. Dan Forest

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,

We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

*Offertory Response

"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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Ford Myrick

First time scripture reader in worship

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

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 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 Anthem

“Through Your Eyes”
Marie Jarriel Roberts, soprano

The Second Lesson

Philemon 1-25

Scott Dickison

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Saving, Preserving, Sharing"

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 278 We Are Travelers on a Journey

BEACH SPRING

**We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

*The Spoken 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!**

Postlude

"Recessional in C"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Douglas Wagner



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, September 4

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship

Monday, September 5

Office closed for Labor Day

Wednesday, September 7

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

Sunday, September 11

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship

Deacon of the Week

September 1 Scott Walker
 September 8 Tricia Whitby

Birthdays

September 4 Oby Brown
 Jack Davis, Jr.
 September 5 Carolyn Jones
 September 6 Christina Jones
 September 10 Helen O'Dell
 September 11 Teddrick Carter
 Rob Fenimore

Condolences:

We grieve with Warren and Connie Jones in the death of Warren's sister, Judy King.

Scan this QR code to make a reservation for Wednesday night supper.



The Record Speaks

Date:	07/31/2022
Budget to Date	\$382,974
Receipts	\$318,480
Expenses	\$380,304
Missions	\$34,541
	(\$102,609)*

*Parentheses indicate a negative balance

Sanctuary Flowers

Would you like to honor someone or a special event by sponsoring the sanctuary flowers on a Sunday? There are just TWO open Sundays remaining on the flower calendar for the rest of 2022: October 2 and 30. To sign up, contact Mary Leonard at 478-737-4171 or follow the link in the High-Lites Weekly.

An Invitation From the Language Ministry

The Language Ministry is poised to launch the 2022—23 school year on September 7. We look forward to greeting our former students and welcoming new students. Our staff makes every effort to make all students feel at ease. We try to honor them and acknowledge them for who they are: children of God created in God's image.

We would love for you to help us make the Language Ministry strong. There are several ways you could participate:

1. Bring a birthday cake.
2. Play the piano during assembly.
3. Provide and serve refreshments once a month.
4. Drive a student to and from class.
5. Pass out fliers in our community.

Please add these possibilities to your prayer time. If any of these seem like a good "fit", please contact either Paula Strozier (478-731-4615) or Sareta Shelburne (478-254-4361). Thank you.

17th Annual Building the Beloved Community Symposium Thursday-Friday, September 15-16

Symposium Theme: "What Is My Responsibility for Racial Justice and Healing?"

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Daniel Hill
Senior Pastor, River City Community Church,
Chicago

Author of *White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White*

Schedule of Events

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Banquet (President's Dining Room,
University Center)

Followed by 1st Keynote Address

Friday 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Centenary UMC Fellowship Hall)

10:10 a.m.

2nd Keynote Address (Penfield Hall)

11:15 a.m.—1:40 p.m.

Panel Discussion followed by lunch
(Penfield Hall)

Free Admission to All Sessions

Reservations Required for Lunch and
Breakfast

Use this QR code to register:



Wednesday Night Bible Study This Fall

This coming Wednesday we will begin a series coordinated with the coming Sunday sermons based on a wonderful and challenging book by Sam Wells, *A Future That's Bigger Than Our Past*.

Wells is the vicar of St. Martin in the Fields Anglican Church in Trafalgar Square in the heart of London. St. Martin's has a long history of serving the most vulnerable in their community but in recent years has expanded their outreach and involvement through social entrepreneurship efforts. Wells believes that, despite the challenges, this is an "exciting time" to be the church.

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic into this new world before us, we'll use this book as a way to consider what it will take, and what it would mean, for our church's future to be "bigger than our past."

The book is available on Amazon, or Bookshop.org, where you can support independent bookstores! Note: Reading along is not required to participate in the conversation!

September 7: *A Future That's Bigger Than Our Past: A Vision for Church Renewal*

September 14: *For Such a Time as This: The Church's Opportunity*

September 21 *Investing in the Kingdom: The Divine Economy*

YOUTH

Youth Open House Wednesday, September 7

After school: The youth room will be open for students after school starting September 7th. Please text Kelsey on Wednesdays if your student plans on coming to church after school, so she knows to look for them.

5:30pm Youth Choir & Dinner

6:15 pm Youth Unplugged & Open House
Youth families are invited to join us! We will go over the calendar for the semester, talk about upcoming events, and share a few typical youth activities.

Save the date:

September 11: 9:00 am Teacher training

September 11: 9:45 am Sunday school orientation

September 16: 5:00 pm Midnight Madness

September 18: 5:00 pm Community youth group at Centenary

CHILDREN

Save the date:

September 17: Mercer football game
tailgate at 3:00 pm
game at 6:00 pm

Registration has closed. Please email JD to ask about additional tickets.

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



NOW. HERE. THIS.

A Future That's Bigger than Our Past

In his wonderfully hopeful and challenging book, *A Future That's Bigger Than Our Past*, author Sam Wells, the vicar of St. Martin in the Fields Church in London, begins by stating what we all know to be true, which is that the Church is changing.

The Church is changing because the world is changing. This book was published in 2019 and the cultural shifts he describes have only accelerated over the past three years due to the pandemic. Wells is speaking of the wider Church, but of course local congregations feel evidence of this change in different ways as well.

Now, change in and of itself is not bad, and is often a very good and essential thing. The problem, Wells argues, is that we're not changing in the ways we need to change, and we're not changing with purpose and direction.

In fact, in many ways, we're not choosing to change, we're simply reacting to the changes we see and feel around us.

That needs to change.

In order to meet the challenges of the present moment, Wells argues, and I agree, that churches need to begin thinking critically and imaginatively about some of the most basic questions before us: Why is the church here? What is our purpose?

When we do this, he says, we will likely come up with different answers than even a generation before. We may even surprise ourselves.

And we will likely find that our current

structures—our programming, our calendars, our buildings—are actually in service of some previous version of the church and not our present.

He says this situation raises two critical questions: How do you feel about this? and What are you going to do about it?

As we continue to emerge from perhaps the most disruptive period in our lives, we will ask these questions together in worship and on Wednesday nights, and combine our imaginations to seek a vision of our shared future rooted in abundance and hope.

This series will lead us into our stewardship season when we will make critical decisions about our future together. It will provide some context for a new committee the congregation approved this past week in conference that is charged with creating a master plan for our facilities.

We'll need to think creatively about our resources and how we can use them to secure financial stability for future generations of the First Baptist Church of Christ to live out our unique and vital mission within our community.

Will our future be bigger than our past?

This is a challenging question for a church as old and with as rich a history as ours. The hard news is that the answer is largely up to us and our willingness to follow the Spirit as it moves.

Or is that the good news?

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 are given to the glory of God in memory of Bill and Tut Meredith and Red and Nita McGouirk, by Don and Betty Meredith McGouirk.



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