



Tears of the People, Lauren Wright Pittman, 2016

Sunday, January 29, 2023
4th Sunday After Epiphany

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

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

Jameson Graham, acolyte

The Prelude

"Processional"

Phil Lehenbauer

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Rebecca Pursiful

Who, O Lord, may find a seat at your table? Whom will you welcome as a friend?

Those who commit their lives to doing what is right, and speak the truth from their heart.

Those who use their words to build up and not tear down, and love their neighbors as themselves.

Those who name wrongdoing for what it is, and who celebrate goodness and kindness when they see it. Those who stand by their word despite the cost.

Those who use what they have been given to lift others up, who do not take advantage of the vulnerable.

Bless those who live in this way, for they will never be moved.

An improvisation on Psalm 15

*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

Allie Ford

*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”

Allie Ford

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.” Pick up your children there after worship. The W.O.W. leader this week is Rebecca Pursiful and the shepherd this week is Barbara Newton.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 255

We Are God's People

SYMPHONY

**We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

**We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.**

**We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall His work on earth be done.**

**We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own ember loses fire:
yet joined in one, the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.**

*The Offertory Prayer

David Cooke
Deacon of the week

The Offertory

“Offertory”
Stanley L. Roberts, baritone

John Ness Beck

*The Offertory Response 1

Holy, Holy, Holy
(stanza 4)

NICAEA

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

1 Corinthians 1: 18-20, 25-31

Joy Dumas

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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 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 Anthem

“Make Me an Instrument”

Craig Courtney

The Chancel Choir

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Text: St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

The Second Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

Scott Dickson

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture, **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

“The Simple Truth”

Scott Dickson

OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of
Commitment 688

Show Us How to Stand for Justice

PLEADING SAVIOR

**Show us how to stand for justice: how to work for what is right,
How to challenge false assumptions, how to walk within the light.**

**May we learn to share more freely in a world so full of greed,
Showing Your immense compassion by the life we choose to lead.**

**Teach our hearts to treasure mercy, whether given or received—
For our need has not diminished since the day we first believed:**

**Let us seek no satisfaction boasting of what we have done,
But rejoice that we are pardoned and accepted in Your Son.**

**Gladly we embrace a lifestyle modeled on Your living Word,
In humility submitting to the truth that we have heard.**

Make us conscious of Your presence every day, in all we do.:

By Your Spirit's gracious prompting may we learn to walk with You.

*The 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

"Joy"

Garrett Parker

Anne Armstrong, organ



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, January 29

Children's Winter Retreat

9:30 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Church Council

Wednesday, February 1

9:30 am	Language Ministry
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 Church Conference
6:45 pm	Kids on Mission

Sunday, February 5

Baptist Heritage Sunday

9:30 am	Making Disciples
9:30 am	Joint Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
5:30 pm	Master plan meeting

Deacon of the Week

February 2	Amy Alderman
February 9	Dee Brachter

Birthdays

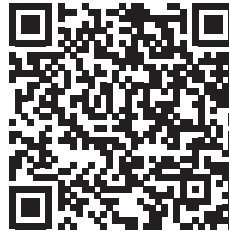
January 28	Michelle Thompson Suthern Sims
January 31	Craig McMahan Mac Dickison
February 1	Charlie Gustafson Walter Shurden
February 2	Martha Duke
February 5	Rowan Huston Shaun Kell

Save the Date:

February 22: Ash Wednesday
 March 5: Spring Musical
 May 21: Graduate Sunday
 June 12-16: VBS
 July 16-19: PassportKids

Wednesday Night Supper

Please use this QR code to make reservations this afternoon for Wednesday night, February 8. The menu this week is pizza.



BAPTIST HERITAGE SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5



The Director of Global Missions Church Engagement for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Reverend Ellen Sechrest, will lead us in worship as our guest preacher.

Attend the joint Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am for breakfast and to hear more from Ellen about CBF and Global Missions. Ellen helps CBF congregations develop deeper connections to the Fellowship and our field personnel through missions, partnerships, and engagement. Through her work with the Encourager Church Program, Missions Portfolio Assessment and Mission Leaders Network, Ellen is most passionate about connecting with churches and growing mission engagement alongside CBF. Ellen received her B.S. from Mars Hill College and her M.Div from Southern Seminary before serving in congregations for over 30 years.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Wednesday Night Activities

5:30 Dinner

6:00 pm Children's Choir

6:45 pm Kids on Mission

Making Disciples Class Update

Our next meeting is February 5 from 12:15-1:45. Check your notebook for homework assignments! Bring your Bible, notebook and a pen or pencil to class.

Children's Ministry Dates:

February 12: Youth, children, & families lunch picnic in the park after worship

February 26: Children's Worship

March 5: Spring Musical

June 12-16: VBS

July 16-19: PassportKids

Children's Spring Musical Dates

March 1: 6:00-7:15 pm

Full time for choir rehearsal in sanctuary

March 4: TBA Dress Rehearsal in sanctuary (Please reserve 9-12)

March 5:

4:00 pm: Call time

6:00 pm: Performance

Greet the Cast Party immediately following performance

YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday Night Activities

5:30 Dinner and Youth Choir*

*Youth come down to the Fellowship Hall to eat after choir. After everyone is done, we walk up to the youth room together.

6:30-7:30 Youth Unplugged

Wednesday Night Chaperone Sign up

Additional adults are needed during "Youth Unplugged" on Wednesday nights. Please sign up for a week that you are available using the link in the newsletter.

Youth Passport Camp

Converse College, Spartanburg, SC
June 19-24

Cost: \$468 (Fundraising opportunities will supplement a portion of this cost. Scholarships are available.)

Sign up ASAP. Passport has a new payment schedule this year that does not allow us to easily drop spots. There are a limited number available, once all spots are filled, we will add as needed but availability is not guaranteed the longer we wait.

Signup your student with an \$80 deposit (ideally by February 1).

Pay deposit on EasyTithe, select "Youth Camp" fund

Save the Date:

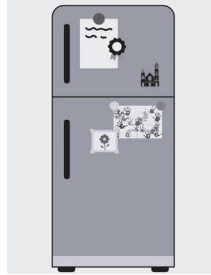
February 11 3:00 pm: Youth Families Forum. Details in youth Newsletter

February 12: Youth, children, and families picnic lunch in the park after worship

February 12: Youth Super Bowl party

February 21: Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

THE FRIDGE DOOR



A place to display the small moments that make up the larger story of the church

This past week Scott and Pastor James Goolsby led an event for the Pastors' School, put on by CBF of Virginia and Union Seminary, in which they spoke about the relationship between our two churches and our work in racial reconciliation. The Thompsons (FBCX) and Mathises (FBC) joined on zoom to aid in the presentation.



MISSIONS

Daybreak SleepOut

February 23, 5:30 pm-9:00 am

Donate or sleep under the stars for one night in solidarity with the homeless community and support Daybreak Day Resource Center and its services.

Our congregation has created a sleepout page for you to donate! Use the link in the newsletter or use this QR code:



Make a donation to help us reach our goal and/or participate in the SleepOut on behalf of FBCX. If you plan on participating, contact Kelsey so we can share with the congregation and show our support.

Mission Amplify: Public Education Advocacy Group

Organized by Together for Hope and Fund Georgia's Future

Mission Amplify is an initiative that engages faith communities and other groups across Georgia in writing letters to legislators in support of public schools and the children they serve.

How does it work? First, attend an introductory session and training on Zoom with Rachel Gunter-Shapard (Together for

Hope) on Sunday, February 12th at 5:00 pm. If you are interested, we recommend you attend this training to better understand what we will do as a cohort. After the training, we will meet 4–6 times during Lent to use the curriculum provided, engage in discussion, and write letters to legislators. Dates TBD.

Looking for a different Lenten practice this year? Learn more about education policy issues in Georgia and engage in advocacy work while gathering with FBCX friends. Join this cohort as a part of your Lenten journey.

Contact Kelsey or use the link in the newsletter to sign up for the information session and to be added to the contact list.

Save the Date:

April 29: Churchwide Missions Day

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Winter Ordinary Time begins after Epiphany and ends with the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. 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.



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COUNCIL

Rev. Scott Dickison
PASTOR

Allie Ford
MINISTRY INTERN

Tierra Johnson
CUSTODIAN

Connie Pursiful
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rebecca Pursiful
MINISTRY INTERN

Dr. Stanley L. Roberts
MINISTER OF MUSIC

Eric Spears
CHAIR OF DEACONS

Rev. Kelsey Stillwell
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
YOUTH AND MISSIONS

Tricia Whitby
Vice Chair of Deacons