



Kelly Latimore, "Transfiguration"

**Sunday, February 19, 2023**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**

## **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

*Jennings Tarpley, acolyte*

The Prelude

"Procession"

Charles Callahan

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

Allie Ford

That when glory comes, we will open our eyes to see it.

**That when glory shows up, we will let ourselves be overcome not by fear, but by the love this glory bears.**

That when glory shines, we will bring it back with us,

**All the way,**

All the way,

**All the way down.**

Adapted from the poem, When Glory, by Jan Richardson

\*The Hymn of Praise 58

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.  
Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.  
To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish but naught changeth Thee.  
Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

\*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

Scott Dickison

“Let the Children Come”

Rebecca Pursiful

*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 Allie Ford and the shepherds this week are Doug and Danielle Barnes.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 161    See Our Lord in All His Glory

CWM RHONDDA

**See our Lord in all His glory, now arrayed in dazzling white!  
See Him shine in holy splendor, bathed in everlasting light!  
See the law and prophets gather, lifting high the Living Christ!  
Lifting high the Living Christ!**

**See the burning cloud around us guiding through our wilderness.  
Hear the voice of God our Father. Hear the love His words express:  
This my Son is pure and pleasing. Hear the blessing that He brings!  
Hear the blessing that He brings!**

**Jesus Lord, we see Your splendor here and now by daily faith.  
In our service, in our suffering we will follow unafraid,  
On from glory into glory till we see You face to face,  
Till we see You face to face.**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Fay Boie  
Deacon of the week

The Offertory

“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”  
*Dannie Smith, horn*

arr. Brant Adams

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint

## THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Exodus 24:12-18

Shannon Hart

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Fairest Lord Jesus  
*The Chancel Choir*

arr. Mark Hayes

(to assist you in worship, the anthem text is hymn # 159)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

For the Good News of God,

**Thanks be to God.**

### OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

\*The Hymn of Commitment 71

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:  
Thou my soul's shelter, and Thou my high tower,  
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

\*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

"Jubilant Finale"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Michael Higgins



## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### Sunday, February 19

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship
5:30 pm	Master Plan Committee

### Monday, February 20

Office closed for President's day

### Wednesday, February 22

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
	Ash Wednesday Service

### Sunday, February 26

#### Children's Sunday

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship

#### Deacon of the Week

February 16	Fay Boie
February 23	Kerri Thompson

#### Birthdays

February 20	Feenie Midkiff
	Jessie Patton
February 23	Margaret Eskew
	Andrew Manis
	Paula Strozier
February 25	Brian Wright

#### Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Gloria Patman** on her death on January 25.

We grieve with Bryan Shelburne and family on the death of his sister, **Judy Montgomery**, on February 2.

We grieve with Charlie Thomas and family on the death of her father, **Radford Smith**, on February 8.

#### Save the Date:

February 26: Children's Sunday  
 March 5: Children's Spring Musical  
 April 29: Church-wide Mission Day  
 May 21: Graduate Sunday  
 June 12-16: VBS  
 July 16-19: PassportKids

#### The Record Speaks

Date:	1/31/2023
Budget:	\$54,530
Receipts:(Offering):	\$47,440
Expenses:	\$47,290
Year to Date:	(\$3,620)

#### Wednesday Night Supper

We are excited to welcome Dexter Jones back to the kitchen to cater our Wednesday suppers this winter and spring! The menu for February 22 is:

Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, salad, and chocolate chip cookies

Please use this QR code to make reservations this afternoon for Wednesday night, February 22.





### **Harry Vaughn Smith Lectures**

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm

Wednesday, February 22, 10:10 am

“Multireligious: Dialogue, Solidarity, Transformation” by Rev. Dr. Michelle Voss Roberts. The lectures are in person only with no live-stream being offered.

### **Sanctuary Flowers**

If you would like to sponsor flowers for the sanctuary this year, please use the link in the newsletter or contact Mary Leonard.

### **Women's Book Club**

Our next women's book club gathering will be Sunday, March 26, 6:00 pm, at Tricia Whitby's house (210 Sleepy Creek Rd. The book will be *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. Mark your calendar to join us!

### **Search for Interim Director of Children's Ministries**

The First Baptist Church of Christ is searching for a new Interim Director of Children's Ministries. A full list of responsibilities are on the website. This position will be part time, between 15-20 hours a week. Compensation is \$300 a week. Scan the link below for more information.



### **Around the Table**

We are excited to once again offer these opportunities to gather for a meal around each other's tables.

On three different Saturday evenings in Lent, February 25, March 11, and March 25, members of the congregation will open their homes to host a group from within the church for supper. We make an effort to mix up the guest lists to have a diverse group at every table. The meal is potluck, with the host providing the main dish and the guests bringing a side (which is usually coordinated ahead of time the week of). If you'd like to attend or host, follow the QR code below.



### **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 Chaperones 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.

### **Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner**

February 21, 6:00–8:00 pm in the youth room

### **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 your student with an \$80 deposit.

Pay deposit on EasyTithe, select "Youth Camp" fund.

## **CHILDREN'S NEWS**

### **Wednesday Night Activities**

5:30 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Children's Choir

6:45 pm Kids on Mission

### **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 9:00 am–12:00 pm)

### **March 5:**

4:00 pm: Call time

6:00 pm: Performance

Greet the Cast Party immediately following performance

### **Children's Ministry Dates:**

**February 26:** Children's Worship

**March 5:** Spring Musical

**April 2:** Easter egg hunt after worship

**May 20:** End of school celebration

**June 12-16:** VBS

**July 16-19:** PassportKids

## **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.

Use this QR code to 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.



### **Trip to the Border**

October 22-26, 2023

CBF is offering an Educational Experience to the Texas/Mexico Border

This experience is similar to the trip we had to cancel in 2020. Meet with CBF field personnel Elket Rodriguez and Global Missions staff in Harlingen, Texas. The itinerary includes meeting with local pastors to hear about their churches' responses to border needs, attending immigration court to learn about the asylum process, volunteering at the Humanitarian Respite Center in Brownsville, a prayer walk along the border/river, and breaking bread with immigrant families as we share stories. Contact Kelsey for more information.



## NOW. HERE. THIS.

One of my favorite traditions of the wider church comes on this final Sunday before the start of Lent, which is known as “Forgiveness Sunday” in Eastern Christianity.

Now, the Eastern Church uses a different calendar from us Westerners, so their Forgiveness Sunday is not until next week, but we can reflect upon this beautiful tradition a week early.

In Eastern Christianity, forgiveness is as much a part of Lent as fasting. It’s understood to be the final step of preparation for Lent. On Forgiveness Sunday, during the mid-evening vespers service, the congregation enters into an act of mutual forgiveness in order to welcome Lent with a pure heart and a clean conscience.

The priest and deacon first stand before each other and ask forgiveness, then one by one each member of the congregation processes forward until every member of the congregation has stood before each of their brothers and sisters in Christ to ask for and offer forgiveness.

Friends have told me that, in practice, this service can be a bit long and tedious—that’s a lot of forgiveness to be offered and received! But for me that is part of its testimony. Forgiveness—offered or received—is not often a beautifully crafted thing. It often takes longer than we would like.

I’m told this practice dates back to the fourth and fifth centuries when monks would retreat alone into the wilderness for the season of Lent, a practice that still happens today. Before departing on this dangerous journey—the desert was scarce in food and water but abundant in wild animals—the monks would seek and offer forgiveness to each other because there was a very real danger that some of them would not return.

Maybe that’s true, maybe it’s not, but the truth at the heart of this tradition is very real, and deeply true. On one level, life is short and fleeting and so committing ourselves once a year to clear our hearts and consciences of all the clutter that accumulates over time is a good thing.

But on another level, if this season of Lent is truly to be a time when we recommit ourselves to being open to God’s presence in our lives and reorient ourselves to the parts of our lives that are most important but seem to get pushed to the side, then this process can only begin by recommitting ourselves to the people God has put around us.

So, if a fast seems too much for you this Lent, consider forgiveness as your Lenten practice—a discipline, even. In the end they’re both about the same thing: letting go of the lesser things in our life so that we can truly hold fast to the things and the people and the God that give us life.

SHD

## Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table along with the ministers' stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Transfiguration Sunday is celebrated on the final Sunday before the season of Lent begins and remembers the scene from the Gospels when Jesus was "transfigured" in light and blessed by God. It serves as a bridge between Jesus' public ministry and his passion. From the time of the Transfiguration, Jesus "sets his face toward Jerusalem" and the cross, and so do we. The liturgical color for this Sunday is white, symbolizing light and blessing.

## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for Mrs. Jessie Patton on the occasion of her 100th birthday on February 20th, by the Hardy and Spears families.

## 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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• [www.fbcxmacon.org](http://www.fbcxmacon.org) • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

## Staff and Leadership

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JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

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COUNCIL

Rev. Scott Dickison  
PASTOR

Allie Ford  
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Tierra Johnson  
CUSTODIAN

Connie Pursiful  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rebecca Pursiful  
MINISTRY INTERN

Dr. Stanley L. Roberts  
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