



"God, the Hiding Place" by Mac Dickison

Sunday, February 26, 2023
The First Sunday in Lent
Children's 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

John Thomas Long, acolyte

The Prelude

""Come, Ye Thankful People, Come""

George J. Elvey

Pippa Kirby, piano

The Choral Call to Worship

Hand in Hand

Tom Long and Allen Pote

Music Makers and Young Musicians

*The Hymn of Praise 48

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Marianne Kell, hymn leader

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

*The Invocation

Sam Northenor

*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

Finn Wallace

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 66

My Shepherd Will Supply
Marianne Kell, hymn leader

RESIGNATION

**My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.**

**When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.**

**The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Kerri Thompson
Deacon of the week

The Offertory

“Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels”
*Soloists: Teddrick Carter, Maddie Cooke, Julianna Dumas
Kirstine Buchanan, conductor*

Michael Joncas

*The Offertory Response 186

HAMBURG

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Mission Moment

Pippa Kirby

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Psalm 32:6-7

Ford Myrick

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God.

The Call to Confession

Reece Huston

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank You for all that is good,
for our creation and for our humanity,
for the stewardship You have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for Your love which is unbounded and eternal,
O Thou, most holy and beloved,
our Companion, our Guide upon the way.

We repent the wrongs we have done:

The Discipline of Silence

The Response 399

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”
(*sung twice*)

Jacques Berthier

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.**

The Assurance of Pardon

Reece Huston

We have wounded Your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are Your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to You,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Billy 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 Second Lesson

Matthew 6:25-34

Abby Ingoldsby

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not

much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Maddie Meyer

The Anthem

Lilies in the Field
Music Makers and Young Musicians

Tom Long and Allen Pote

Meditation

Lorelai Wall

OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 267

Blest Be the Tie

DENNIS

Marianne Kell, hymn leader

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.**

**When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.**

*The Benediction

Cal Northenor

*The Congregational Response "May the Road Rise to Meet You"

Lee Turner

Marianne Kell, hymn leader

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind blow at your back
May the sun shine warmly on your face
May the rain fall soft upon your field
And until we meet again, (until we meet again)
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.**

Postlude

"Canzona"

Robert Roesch

Anne Armstrong, organ

ALTARSCAPE

The altarscape is inspired by Psalm 32:6-7. On it, you will see items that the children selected to represent the images they gathered from the text, "waters," "protection," and "safety." The altarscape planning team wanted to include seashells because they are an example of a part of creation that provides creatures with protection in the water. This is a reminder of the love of God that can be a source of comfort and protection as we face our own troubling waters. You are encouraged to ask the children to share with you the items they selected and why.

ALTARSCAPE DESIGN

Tripp Barnes
Billy Dickison
Andrew Fuller
Emery Fuller
Raylee Huston
Reece Huston
Marianne Kell
John Thomas Long
Cal Northenor
Sam Northenor
Owen Stinson
Jennings Tarpley

GREETERS

Luke Ayers
Silas Ayers
Tripp Barnes
Mac Dickison
Emery Fuller
Alex Ingoldsby
Raylee Huston
Hasley Myrick
Owen Stinson
Evie Wallace

USHERS

Sid Dickison
Jameson Graham
Rowan Huston
John Thomas Long
Jennings Tarpley

HYMN SELECTORS

Marianne Kell
Jennings Tarpley

AUDIO VISUAL

Billy Dickison
Andrew Fuller



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, February 26

Children's Sunday

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| 9:45 am | Sunday school |
| 11:00 am | Worship |
| 12:15 pm | Making Disciples |

Monday, February 27

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|---------|-----------------|
| 9:00 am | Crisis Closet |
| 9:00 am | Circle of Hope |
| 5:30 pm | Mission Amplify |

Wednesday, March 1

| | |
|---------|---|
| 9:30 am | Language Ministry |
| 5:30 pm | Youth Choir |
| 5:30 pm | Family Dinner |
| 6:00 pm | Young Musicians and Music Makers in sanctuary |
| 6:15 pm | Youth "Unplugged" |
| 6:30 pm | Language Ministry |
| | Adult Bible study |
| | Chancel choir rehearsal |

Saturday, March 4

Dress rehearsal in sanctuary for Children's musical

Sunday, March 5

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 9:45 am | Sunday School |
| 11:00 am | Worship |
| 4:00 pm | Call time for musical cast |
| 6:00 pm | Children's Musical |

Deacon of the Week

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| February 23 | Kerri Thompson |
| March 3 | Doug Barnes |

Birthdays

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| February 27 | Madeline Davis |
| March 1 | David Hunt |
| | Eric O'Dell |
| | Susan Broome |
| | Troy Tarpley |
| March 3 | Anita Gustafson |
| March 4 | Mary Barnes |
| | Shirley Morley |
| March 5 | Monica Stevens Kirby |

Condolences

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:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 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

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| As of 1/31/2023 | |
| Monthly Budget: | \$50,200 |
| Receipts: | \$47,400 |
| Expenses: | \$50,805 |
| Year to Date: | (\$3,405) |
| Missions Giving: | \$2,550 |

Wednesday Night Supper

The menu for March 1 is:

Spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, chocolate chip cookies

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



Children's Musical

Sunday, March 5 at 6:00pm

Our children and leaders have been working hard to prepare for their spring musical, "Life of the Party" which tells the story of Jesus, Mary, and Martha. This morning, in worship, they will sing two pieces from their musical, giving us a sneak preview of what is in store next week. Come support our children by attending this church wide event, you will be glad you did! Following the performance, ALL are invited to the fellowship hall for a greet-the-cast party! There will be chicken fingers and drinks provided. Bring a side or sweet to share.

Around the Table

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

On Saturday evenings in Lent, 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.



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!

Men's Retreat

Fort Mountain State Park, Chatsworth, GA
May 5-7

March is Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) Month of Advocacy

In an effort to build upon their annual drive to encourage churches to invite a woman to preach, this year BWIM is initiating a month of advocacy. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to “take the next step in affirming, valuing, and elevating women in ministry” by engaging in a variety of suggested actions and initiatives.

Scan the QR code below to learn more:



Or you can access an interactive monthly calendar to keep your own practice of advocating for women in ministry:



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.

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.

Save the Date:

Mission Madness

April 14–16

Columbus, Ga

CHILDREN'S NEWS

MISSIONS

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: 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:

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

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 Rodriquez 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.

NOTES AND DOODLES



NOW. HERE. THIS.

“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.” -Lilla Watson, Australian activist, academic, and artist

The missional ministries at FBCX are expansive. They are serving our neighbors and meeting needs, but they are also building relationships. The crisis closet volunteers know visitors by name. The language ministry is a community that celebrates life together. The circle of hope women share their creativity and passion. These are more than services; they're connections. This is who we are. From this identity, we continue to expand our involvement in missions. If our liberation is bound together, we must care for our neighbors while questioning the systems that work to keep people in poverty. A sustainable, holistic, transformative mission includes advocacy.

Advocacy is one part of the whole body of the church. It contributes to the beauty of the whole, does not detract from another, and isn't a passion everyone is expected to share. But as followers of Jesus, who challenged the system, spoke out about injustices, and went against societal expectations to bring healing and good news, engaging in advocacy should also be part of our mission. So where do we begin?

Last week I attended an advocacy event hosted by Fund Georgia's Future at the capitol. FGF advocates for full public

education funding and partners with Together for Hope. I arrived expecting to meet folks like me who were new to this. Instead, I found myself in a room full of “policy people” who represented nonprofits and had been at the capitol all week following bills and speaking to legislators. I initially felt out of place until the conversation started, “How do we get people to care about people living in poverty?” “All children matter and deserve a good education.” “We want to elevate the voices of those who aren't being heard, who deserve access to better resources.” It sounded like a missions discussion.

In a packed room at the capitol, talking about policy and speaking with senators, I was surprised to find that it did not feel like “politics” in the ways that this word makes church folks clench their jaws. Instead, it felt like a shared passion for humanity and liberation bound up together.

I saw a vast distance between the advocates in that room and the people they were advocating for, in this case, teachers, students, and families. This might be where we begin. Maybe the church, as it does often, can be a bridge between these two worlds. A point of connection between our neighbors and the policy that affects them. There are resources within our own membership, educational opportunities, and ways to advocate with and for the community, our ministries serve weekly. We have done this in a variety of ways already; it's who we are. If you'd like to be a part of imagining what more we can do in advocacy, let's talk!

-Kelsey

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. The season of Lent lasts forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. It is traditionally a time of fasting, penitence, and prayer. The color purple, symbolizing repentance, marks the season.



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