



Christ Appearing to Mary,
Edward Middleton Manigault, 1910

April 9, 2023
Easter 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

Sam Northenor, acolyte

The Prelude

"The Head that Once Was Crowned with Thorns" arr. Charles Callahan

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Kelsey Stillwell

Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.

And it is true. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

*The Hymn of Praise 194

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Earth and heaven join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!

Christ hath opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!

Where's thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

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

Scott Dickison

“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 Josie Stephens.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 223 Crown Him With Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save;
His glories now we sing who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for Thou hast died for me!
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Jonathan Simpson

The Offertory Anthem

“Christ the Lord Is Ris’n Again
The Chancel Choir

Eleanor Daley

*The Offertory Response 186

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O sing ye, Alleluia! O sing ye, Alleluia!
Alleluia!**

St. Francis of Assisi (1225)

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Harold Tessororf

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: “Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.”

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

The Anthem "Arise, My Soul, Arise"
The Chancel Choir
Naomi Fan, violin

Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears:
Before the throne my surety stands,
Before the throne my surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,
"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.
Arise, my soul, arise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1742

The Second Lesson

John 20:1-18

Scott Dickison

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to

them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Where Gardens Grow"

Scott Dickison

OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 215 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

DARWALL

**Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**His kingdom cannot fail, He rules both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

The Benediction

Scott Dickison

The Choral Response

“Hallelujah”

from *Messiah* G. F. Handel

Postlude

"Fantasy on EASTER HYMN"

Sir William Harris

Anne Armstrong, organ

If you would like to take a lily home after church, please do so.

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



We are thrilled to welcome Erika Houser as our new interim director of children's ministries!

Erika has been among us these past four years as a college student at Mercer. She has been an active volunteer in our children's ministry, serving as one of our children's Sunday school teachers.

Erika will ease into this role until she graduates from Mercer in May, and then will begin in earnest over the summer. Please help us welcome her!

VBS Registration Now Open!

At Food Truck Party VBS, your "chefs" will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they get on a roll with God! They will discover how we can turn to God in prayer every day to meet our needs and how we can join God in providing for the needs of others.

Link for registration:



Please complete one registration form PER CHILD so that we can best support each "chef" at VBS!



Link to volunteer at VBS

Men's Retreat



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

Graduate Recognition Sunday May 21

We will recognize our graduates in worship and celebrate them with a lunch reception in the Fellowship hall following the service. Save the date to celebrate with our graduates. We recognize all our graduates; High school, post secondary, post-graduate education, etc. If you or someone you know is graduating, please contact Kelsey to be sure they are included.

YOUTH NEWS

Mission Madness

When: April 14–16

Where: Columbus, GA

Mission madness is a weekend retreat coordinated by CBFGA. We will drive to Columbus, Georgia Friday afternoon and back on Sunday. We spend most of the day Saturday on mission sites throughout the community. Youth worship, work, play, and fellowship together. Cost includes t-shirt, hotel, and meals.

High School Mission Trip

July 8 -15 in New York City

Leading CLUE Camp at Raushenbuscg
Mero Ministries

More details coming soon.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Children's Ministry Dates:

May 20: End of school celebration

June 12-16: VBS

July 16-19: Passport

MISSIONS

FBCX Day of Mission

Loving one another with Heart, Mind, and Body

Saturday, April 29th, 8:00am-2:00pm

Together we will live out the mission of the church with our hearts, minds, and bodies. There will be a variety of options for everyone to participate in the work that God is already doing in our community, including hands-on service

projects, educational opportunities, dialogue, and advocacy. There will be options available for all ages and interests. More details and a registration link will be in the weekly High-Lites. If you are interested in assisting with this event, please contact Kelsey.

Joint Sunday school breakfast and mission celebration

Sunday, April 30th, 9:45am in the fellowship hall

Join us for breakfast the following morning as we share stories and pictures from the mission day. All are invited!

Education Equity Advocacy

Monday, April 10, 5:30 pm

We are a cohort passionate about the right for all children to have access to quality education and engaging in advocacy for education equity. We have been following policies around public education funding, collecting resources, writing to legislators, and learning together. Our identity and mission are ever-evolving, but our care for all children remains at the center. Whether you're new to advocacy work or have done this before, if you're interested in learning more, we would love for you to join us! At our next meeting, we will follow up with reports about the bills we've been following, discuss our plans for the mission day event and beyond, and vote on our official name.

We will meet again at Cathy Logue's house for dinner and discussion on April 10th. Let Kelsey know if you'd like to be added to the email list and if you'd like to attend.

EASTER FLOWERS

In Memory of

Edna Irene Belba
Alfred and Betty June Bongiovanni
Dick Bratcher
Richard and Margaret Bratcher
Harry and Blanche Burkett
Fred Johnson
Charles and Dorthy Leonard
Michael, Elaine, Henry, Ty, Scott, and Naomi
Fred and Betty Stewart
Albert and Frances McCowen
John and Michael McCullough
Mr. and Mrs. Winford (Blanche) Atkins
Heinz Treiber
Bill Tribble
Elwyn Saunders and Charles Whitby, Jr.

Given By

Jonathan Simpson
Fred Bongiovanni and Dee Bratcher
Fred Bongiovanni and Dee Bratcher
Fred Bongiovanni and Dee Bratcher
Fay Burkett Boie and Family
Joe and Mary Jane Johnson
Mary Leonard
Mary Leonard
Mary Leonard
Suzy McCullough
Suzy McCullough
Carol Taylor
Jennifer and Peter Treiber
Mary Tribble
Charles and Tricia Whitby

In Honor of

Jean Corson
Curt and Mary Carter
Margie Hughes
Pilgrim's Sunday School Class
Connie and Rebecca Pursiful
Daughters, Jennifer and Gena
Marcie Saunders and Jean Whitby

Given By

Kitty Knight
David and Lillian Davis
A Friend
Harriet Eason
Harriet Eason
Mary Tribble
Charles and Tricia Whitby

If you would like to take a lily home after church, please do so.

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 Easter marks the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Eastertide is traditionally a time of reflection on the significance of the resurrection of Christ for our life and faith. The color white symbolizes the hope of the resurrection.



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