



Christ Shows Himself to Thomas, Rowan and Irene LeCompte
Mosaic, Washington National Cathedral

April 16, 2023
The Second Sunday of Easter

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

Reece Huston, acolyte

The Prelude

"Rigaudon"

arr. Charles Callahan

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Erika Houser

Meet us in the upper room, O God.

Meet us in our fear, in our worry, in our doubt.

Meet us and give us your peace.

Say to us, "Peace be with you," and let us feel it as it washes over us.

Breathe on us, breath of God.

Breath of creation, spirit of truth.

Breath of resurrection, spirit of new life.

Met us in the upper room, O God. And show us again that your promises are good.

From John 20:19-23

*The Hymn of Praise 210

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

DUKE STREET

**I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this assurance gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living Head!**

**He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above; He lives to rule His church in love.**

**He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.**

**He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!**

**He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What comfort this assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

The Invocation

Scott Dickison

*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”

Erika Houser

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 Erika Houser and the shepherds this week are Lesley Myrick and Rachel Huston.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 186

When I Survey

HAMBURG

**When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
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.**

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing ”
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. James Pethel

*The 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

Psalm 16

Andy Digh

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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

“Devotion”

John Ness Beck

The Chancel Choir

Kirstine Buchanan, conductor

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn
of Commitment 281

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.
Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

The Choral 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

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Anne Armstrong, organ



Our Life Together

ALL OF OUR LINKS ARE IN ONE PLACE!

Scan this QR code to access links for all of our event sign ups, on-line payments, and social media.



Sunday, April 16

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Church Council

Wednesday, April 19

9:30 am	Language Ministry
5:30 pm	Youth Choir
5:30 pm	Family Dinner
6:00 pm	Children's choir
6:15 pm	Youth "Unplugged"
6:30 pm	Language Ministry
	Adult Bible study
	Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, April 23

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship

Deacon of the Week

April 13	Jody Long
April 20	Jonathan Simpson

Birthdays

April 16	Lowell Clark
	Marla Potts
April 17	Frank Sapp
	Sam Scarbrough
April 20	Joshua Felton
April 21	Lillian Davis
April 22	JD Granade
	Terree Newberry
	Jonathan Simpson

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Alison Alderman**, who passed away on March 23.

We grieve with the family of **Bob Sanders** who passed away on April 2.

Save the Date:

April 29	Church-wide Mission Day
May 5-7	Men's Retreat
May 11	Hannah Service
May 21	Graduate Sunday
May 21	Women's Book Club
June 12-16	VBS
July 16-19	PassportKids

The Record Speaks

As of 3/31/2023

Monthly Budget:	\$50,200
Receipts:	\$54,708
Expenses:	\$50,645
Year to Date:	\$(428)
Year to Date Missions Giving:	\$20,650

Wednesday Night Supper

Please make reservations this afternoon for Wednesday night, April 19.

Menu:

April 19: Breakfast

Adult Bible Study:

The Poetry of Easter

Sanctuary Flowers

To sponsor sanctuary flowers, please contact Mary Leonard at 478-737-4171 or michael.leonard1@cox.net.

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.

Please save toilet tissue tubes for us and drop them by the office.

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 all are invited to celebrate them with a lunch reception in the Fellowship hall following the service. 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

High School Mission Trip

July 8 -15 in New York City

Leading CLUE Camp at Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries

Information meeting after worship on Sunday, April 23rd.

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 Missions

Saturday, April 29th

8:00 am–2:00 pm

Join us for a day as together we live out the mission of the church! There are various options for everyone to participate in, including hands on service projects, educational opportunities, dialogue and advocacy. There are ways for all ages to get involved. Childcare provided.

Saturday

8:00 am Breakfast and introduction

8:45 am groups dismissed to sites

11:30 am lunch

2:00 pm groups end

Sunday

9:45 am Joint Sunday school breakfast and mission celebration. Come back for breakfast the following morning as we share stories and pictures from the previous day. All are invited.

Sign up for the Mission Day by April 18th to guarantee a T shirt!

Check out some of the mission options:

- Home repairs and painting for senior, low income, home owners. Must be 18 or older
- FBCX Building and grounds projects: Minor repairs, organization, yard work, etc. Youth friendly.

- Childcare: Child friendly mission projects led by Allie and Rebecca.
- World Cafe: Immigration policy, a report from the border, Latinx resources in Macon, and ESL ministry
- PACE (Protecting ALL Children's Education): Report from Advocacy group, Public Education policy and budget, school support, and what's next
- Racial Justice: Honest conversations about our history and addressing current injustices in our community.
- LGBTQ+: Resources for youth in Macon, following LGBTQ+ policy

Daybreak is celebrating volunteer month all month long.

Thank you to all our volunteers. If you would like to join our volunteer team at Daybreak, we would love to have you. Email Macon.volunteer@Depaulusa.org for more information.



Now. Here. This.

In a sermon recently I lifted up the fact that the Greek word for liturgy, *leitourgia*, literally means “a work of the people.” In ancient times it was often used to refer to large public works projects, like amphitheaters or parks that all were meant to enjoy.

Which tells us that the liturgy we share each week—the words we say, the songs we sing, the prayers we offer—is something we make together. The hope is that it will then make us.

This has always been a beautiful approach to what we do together in worship, but something I have been reflecting on especially this past week when it comes to all the many hearts and hands that contribute to crafting Holy Week within our congregation.

Over the course of one week we not only tell and reenact the story of our faith as we receive it in scripture, we also put it into practice in the way we come together to prepare meaningful opportunities to worship, gather, and care for one another.

You would not believe the hands and bodies it takes to do something as seemingly simple as leading our children in procession waving palms (come to think of it, maybe that doesn't seem so simple!).

And yet every step along the way—from egg hunting, to beautiful and theologically rich artistic design, to preparing a family-style meal for 80, to setting tables, to cutting communion bread and filling

chalices, to washing dishes (cheerfully!), to singing and playing instruments in worship, to welcoming guests, to delivering flowers and our love to those who can't be among us, to simply being present—the people of this church came together to create sacred space enough for all of us to encounter the risen Christ in our midst.

Easter is undoubtedly a story of the power of God to move among us and make the impossible possible. But it is also a story of the power of love and hope to transform a people.

This is my hope for us as we continue through this season of Easter and beyond: that we would continue to be transformed by love and hope. That, with the disciples, we would find each other in our doubt and our fear and receive Christ's peace. That we would open our tables to strangers and find Christ in them. That we would feel our hearts burning within us and find courage enough to speak of it. That we would share these stories of resurrection as they come, and that these experiences of grace and renewal would be part of the liturgy we create that in turn re-creates us.

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. 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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winford Atkins (Blanche) by their daughter, Carol Taylor, and her family.



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