



“Germination,” Ricardo Levins Morales, digital, 2017  
Sin Fronteras Farm & Food Community Supported Art initiative

**April 23, 2023**  
**The Third 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

*Lorelai Wall, acolyte*

The Prelude

"Intrada"

Stanley Vann

*Anne Armstrong, organ*

The Call to Worship

Erika Houser

Come, lift up your voices to God, who knows and hears your voice when you cry out.

**When fears and anxieties take hold, we call on God and find relief.**

Rest your souls. God is with us.

**God has given our lives meaning, soothed our sufferings, and guided our feet.**

Walk in God's presence in the land of the living.

**Even when trust is hard, we call on God's name.**

Come, eager with your gratitude and praise.

**We worship and sing as God leans down to hear us.**

\*The Hymn of Praise 319

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy works and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly forever adore Him.**

\*The Invocation

Rebecca Pursiful

\*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”

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. leaders this week are Erika Houser and Rebecca Pursiful and the shepherds this week are Danielle and Doug Barnes.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 374

I Thank You, Lord

GRATUS

**I thank You, Lord, for each new day, for meadows white with dew,  
For the sun's warm hand upon the earth, for skies of endless blue,  
For fruit and flower, for lamb and leaf, for every bird that sings,  
With grateful heart I thank You, Lord, for all those simple things.**

**I thank You, Lord, for wind and rain and for the silver moon,  
For every daisy's lifted face, for every lovely tune,  
For winter's white, for autumn's gold, for harvest and for home,  
With grateful heart I thank You, Lord, for each good gift I own.**

**I thank You, Lord, for hand and heart to offer up Your praise.  
I thank You, Lord, for tongue to speak of all Your loving ways.  
For health and strength, for work and play, for loved ones far and near,  
With grateful heart I thank You, Lord, for all that I hold dear.**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Hunter Godsey

The Offertory Anthem

Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

J.S. Bach/John Leavitt

*The Youth Choir*

*Kirstine Buchanan, conductor*

**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

1 Peter 1:17-23

Jessica Northenor

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Kelsey Stillwell

**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

“Sometimes a Light Surprises”

Craig Courtney

*The Chancel Choir*

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while she sings;  
It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings:  
When comforts are declining, He grants the soul again  
A season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue  
The theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new:  
Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say  
Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through:  
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe his people too;  
Beneath the spreading heavens, no creature but is fed  
And He who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit should bear,  
Though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there,  
Yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice;  
For while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800)

The Second Lesson

Psalm 116

Allie Ford

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"I Love the Lord, Because"

Allie Ford

### **OFFERING OF COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn  
of Commitment 278

We Are Travelers on a Journey

BEACH SPRING

**We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road:  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**Sister, let me your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.  
Brother, let me your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.  
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

\*The Benediction

Kelsey Stillwell

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

"Jubilation"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Jason Payne



## 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, online payments, and social media.



### Sunday, April 23

9:45 am Sunday school  
11:00 am Worship  
12:15 pm High School Mission Trip  
Information Meeting

### Monday, April 24

9:00 am Circle of Hope  
9:00 am Crisis Closet  
7:30pm Performance  
Mercer Wind Ensemble

### Wednesday, April 26

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"  
6:00 pm Language Ministry  
Church conference  
6:30 pm Adult Bible Study  
Chancel Choir rehearsal

### Saturday, April 29

8:00 am Church-wide mission day

### Sunday, April 30

9:45 am Joint Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship

### Deacon of the Week

April 20 Jonathan Simpson  
April 27 Julie Long

### Birthdays

April 24 Richard George  
April 25 James Scoggins  
April 26 David Cooke  
April 28 Sally McMahan  
April 29 Beau Cooke  
Hattie Davis  
Megan Sapp  
Erika Houser

### 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.

We grieve with the family of **Gaye Nunn**, mother of Elliott Wall, who passed away on April 12.

We grieve with the family of **Frances VanHorn**, grandmother of Angela Windham, who passed away on April 17.

### Save the Date:

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 26.

### **Menu:**

Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, field peas

**Adult Bible Study:** The Poetry of Easter

## **Guest Preacher this Sunday, Allie Ford**

We are delighted to welcome Allie Ford to the pulpit this Sunday. Allie is completing her first year at Mercer University and has served as served as our Ministry Intern since the fall.

Nurturing young people in their call, whether it is a call to ministry or simply to live out the gospel in whatever path they choose, is among our deepest commitments as a church. Inviting Allie to our pulpit is also a way in which we stand in solidarity with one of our identity partners, Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM), and all women in leadership in our Baptist tradition.

## **Men's Retreat**

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

## **Wind Ensemble Concert**

The Mercer University Wind Ensemble will present an evening of music that features the powerful combination of wind band and pipe organ at the First Baptist Church of Christ on Monday, April 24 at 7:30 pm. The concert concludes the 2022–2023 Wind Ensemble season and will feature Dr. Jack Mitchener, Professor of Organ. Dr. Brittan Braddock is the conductor of the group. The concert will feature works by Johann Sebastian Bach (transcribed by Gustav Holst), Charles Ives, Jaromir Weinberger, Julie Giroux, Jack Stamp, and more! The concert is free!

## **Church Conference**

Join us for our quarterly church conference next Wednesday, as we discuss a proposal to overhaul our sanctuary lighting.

## **Hannah Service May 11, 6:00 pm**

As much as we celebrate the gift of mothers in our lives, this day can bring feelings of grief for some people. This service is a space to gather with those who know the grief of infertility, miscarriage, death of an infant or child, adoption, loss, death of a mother, and family estrangement. The Hannah Service is for people who grieve in these ways and loved ones who want to support them. We will offer space to lament and speak honestly about our grief, as well as offer hope and comfort to one another.

## **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.

Use the QR code on the previous page to get to the registration link.

## **Women's Book Club**

The next meeting of our book club will be May 21 at 134 Cross Creek Circle. The book will be *You Shall Not CONDEMN - A story of Faith and Advocacy on Death Row* by Jennifer M. McBride. Jenny plans to be with us, in person, We will also set up a ZOOM option for anyone interested and in case something, last minute, keeps Jenny from being able to drive down from Atlanta.

## **Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**May 21**

11:00 am Worship

12:00 pm Graduate Celebration and Spaghetti Lunch

Join us for worship as we recognize our graduates! All are invited to a spaghetti lunch and graduate celebration following

worship. If you or someone you know is graduating please get in touch with Kelsey to ensure they are included.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **High School Mission Trip Information Meeting**

#### **Today, following worship**

If your student is interested in attending the High School Mission trip, come to the meeting to learn more about it. You do not have to make a commitment this week, this is for anyone who is interested. We will go over the details of the trip, travel, cost, schedule, what the youth will be doing, etc. The mission trip is at Metro Baptist Church in New York City, July 8-15.

## **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**

*Be sure to sign up by Tuesday! Use the QR code to sign up, and you will receive an email later this week with more details about the group you will be in.*

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! T shirts are \$10 and can be payed for through the portal or on Missions Day.

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

## 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 honor of Jon Simpson's birthday and Joan and Kirby Godsey's 64th wedding anniversary by Hunter Godsey.



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

## Staff and Leadership

Anne Armstrong  
ORGANIST

Kirstine Buchanan  
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

David Cooke  
CHAIR OF CHURCH  
COUNCIL

Rev. Scott Dickison  
PASTOR

Allie Ford  
MINISTRY INTERN

Erika Houser  
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Tierra Johnson  
CUSTODIAN

Camille Kittrell  
BOOKKEEPER

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