

“Deep,” by Maham Anum, oil on cardboard, 2017

**May 7, 2023**  
**The Fifth 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

*Maddie Meyer, acolyte*

The Prelude

"Festive Processional"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

David Lasky

The Call to Worship

Erika Houser

In you, O Lord, we seek refuge; do not let us be put to shame.

**Incline your ear. Be our rock and refuge.**

You are indeed our rock and our fortress; lead us and guide us.

**Untangle us from our nets—all that distracts us and keep us from seeing you.**

Into your hand we commit our spirits, faithful God.

**Let your face shine upon us, that we may know your love.**

from Psalm 31

\*The Hymn of Praise 306

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

**Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!  
Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
Christ is our guide and friend;  
To us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!  
Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"**

\*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

Stanley Roberts

“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 Rebecca Pursiful and the shepherd this week is Yumiko Jones.*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Offertory 248 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

EDEN CHURCH

**Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ, our head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of the Lord and precious,  
Binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call You,  
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;  
Come, with all Your loving kindness,  
Hear Your people as they pray;  
And your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.**

**Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful  
All the gifts they ask to gain;  
What they gain from You forever  
With the blessed to retain;  
And hereafter in Your glory evermore with You to reign.**

**Praise and honor to the Father,  
Praise and honor to the Son,  
Praise and honor to the Spirit,  
Ever three and ever one:  
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

\*The Offertory Prayer

Mary Jane Johnson  
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”  
*The Chancel Choir*

Mark Hayes

Rejoice, ye pure in heart:  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing  
Beneath the standard of your God,  
The cross of Christ your King.  
Rejoice, good people, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age,  
Strong men and maidens fair,  
Raise high your free, exulting song,  
God's wondrous praise declare.

Yes on through life's long path,  
Still singing as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day,  
In sadness and in woe.

Still lift your standards high,  
Still march in firm array,  
As warriors through the darkness toil  
'Til dawns the golden day.

*Edward H. Plumptre (1865)*

\*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 31:1-5, 9-14, 19-24

John Thomas Long  
First time reading Scripture

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you, and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone!

In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.

Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege.

I had said in my alarm, "I am driven far from your sight." But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.

Love the LORD, all you his saints.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**

**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

1 Peter 1:21-23; 2:1-5, 9; 4:8-11

Dee Bratcher

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.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Love One Another Deeply"

Dee Bratcher

## OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

\*The Hymn of Commitment 255

We Are God's People

SYMPHONY

**We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word:  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:  
O let us live transparently  
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

**We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
For we have known it, the love of God out poured;  
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:  
O let us share each joy and care,  
And live with a zeal that pleases heaven.**

**We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us be a family diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God,  
And so shall His work on earth be done.**

**We are a Temple, the spirit's dwelling place,  
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;  
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:  
Yet, joined in one, the flame burns on  
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.**

\*The Benediction

Stanley Roberts

The Response

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”  
*The Chancel Choir*

John Rutter

Postlude

"All Creatures of Our God and King"  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

Anna Laura Page

## **For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet**

**by Joy Harjo**

Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop.

Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control.

Open the door, then close it behind you.

Take a breath offered by friendly winds. They travel the earth gathering essences of plants to clean.

Give it back with gratitude.

If you sing it will give your spirit lift to fly to the stars' ears and back.

Acknowledge this earth who has cared for you since you were a dream planting itself precisely within your parents' desire.

Let your moccasin feet take you to the encampment of the guardians who have known you before time, who will be there after time. They sit before the fire that has been there without time.

Let the earth stabilize your post colonial insecure jitters.

Be respectful of the small insects, birds and animal people who accompany you.

Ask their forgiveness for the harm we humans have brought down upon them.

Don't worry.

The heart knows the way though there may be high-rises, interstates, checkpoints, armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and those who will despise you because they despise themselves.

The journey might take you a few hours, a day, a year, a few years, a hundred, a thousand or even more.

Watch your mind. Without training it might run away and leave your heart for the immense human feast set by the thieves of time.

Do not hold regrets.

When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning by the keepers of your soul, you will be welcomed.

You must clean yourself with cedar, sage, or other healing plant.

Cut the ties you have to failure and shame.

Let go the pain you are holding in your mind, your shoulders, your heart, all the way to your feet. Let go the pain of your ancestors to make way for those who are heading in our direction.

Ask for forgiveness.

Call upon the help of those who love you. These helpers take many forms: animal, element, bird, angel, saint, stone, or ancestor.

Call your spirit back. It may be caught in corners and creases of shame, judgment, and human abuse.

You must call in a way that your spirit will want to return.

Speak to it as you would to a beloved child.

Welcome your spirit back from its wandering. It may return in pieces, in tatters. Gather them together. They will be happy to be found after being lost for so long.

Your spirit will need to sleep awhile after it is bathed and given clean clothes.

Now you can have a party. Invite everyone you know who loves and supports you. Keep room for those who have no place else to go.

Make a giveaway, and remember, keep the speeches short.

Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.

## VBS Registration Now Open!

God Is Great! God Is Good! Let us Thank God for Our Food! By God's Hands We All Are Fed! Give us, Lord, Our Daily Bread!

# SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

## FOOD TRUCK PARTY

ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

# JUNE 12-16TH 9AM-12PM

Hosted together by:

Aftercare for FBCX & Centenary Families!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NURTURE LOVE SERVE ALL

CENTENARY CHURCH

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.

VBS will be on June 12–16 at First Baptist Church in the fellowship hall. We'll be doing the Cokesbury curriculum from last year with a Food Truck Party! Due to space restrictions, aftercare is only available for families connected to FBCX and Centenary.

VBS will be in the morning from 9:00 am–12:00 pm and is free. Aftercare will be from 12:00–5:00 pm and will be \$80/child for four days (we won't have aftercare on Friday, as we'll be having a noontime celebration). If you want aftercare, **please make sure that you sign up each child on both links!**

Please complete one registration form PER CHILD so that we can best support each "chef" at VBS! We especially need some shepherds to guide the groups along with some more hands in the aftercare time. For high school and college kids, it's a great way to earn some volunteer hours! We're looking forward to a great week together this summer!



# **Graduate Recognition** & *Spaghetti Lunch Celebration*

**Join us for worship and a spaghetti lunch on  
Sunday, May 21**

**to celebrate our graduates and support our youth!**

**11:00am** Graduates will be recognized in  
worship

**12:00pm** Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser  
hosted by the FBCX Youth in the  
**Fellowship Hall**. Everyone is invited to  
lunch as we celebrate with our  
graduates and our families. Donations  
from this event will be used to offset the  
cost of the youth mission trip and  
Passport camp this summer.





## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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



### Sunday, May 7

Men's Retreat

9:45 am	Joint Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship
1:00 pm	VBS Planning Session
5:30 pm	Master Plan Committee

### Wednesday, May 10

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
6:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	Chancel Choir rehearsal

### Thursday, May 11, May 11

6:00 pm Hannah Service

### Sunday, May 14

9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship

### Deacon of the Week

May 4	Mary Jane Johnson
May 11	Mary Leonard

### Birthdays

May 7	Carol Martin
May 8	Lorelai Wall
May 9	Barbara Newton
May 11	David McCollum
May 12	Kay Gatins
May 13	Jameson Graham
	Amy Wiles
May 14	Evie Wallace
	Finn Wallace

### Condolences

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.

We grieve with the family of **C. W. Sanderson** who passed away on April 27.

We grieve with the family of **Meta Monteleon**, mother of Martha Duke, who passed away on May 3.

### Save the Date:

May 21	Graduate Sunday
May 21	Women's Book Club
May 24	Last regular Wednesday night,
May 28	Pentecost
June 12-16	VBS
June 19-24	Youth Passport
July 8-5	High School Mission Trip
July 16-19	PassportKids

### Wednesday Night Supper

Please make reservations this afternoon for Wednesday night, May 10.

## **VBS Planning Session**

**Today 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

This will include background checks, policy training, and planning.

## **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.

## **Jam and Bread Fundraiser**

Thank you for helping to send our kids to camp! Each 1/2 pint jar of homemade jam is \$10. Each order will receive a small loaf of bread. (One loaf of bread per order no matter how many jams your order). Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, May 21. Flavors: Strawberry Lemonade, Caramel Pineapple and Mango Vanilla. Don't delay in ordering! This will make great thank you gifts for teachers, neighbors, and friends!

## **Sanctuary Flowers**

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

## **Women's Book Club**

**May 21, 6:00 pm**

**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.

## **Pool Party**

**June 8 5:00-8:00 pm**

**560 Edgefield Way**

All youth, children, and families are invited to celebrate the end of the school year at this year's pool party.

Pizza, drinks, and popsicles will be provided, but feel free to bring extra snacks!

## **Pick Up Mugs and Dishes**

During the mission day, a team cleaned out a few closets in the church and there are items that could use a home! Check out the tables set up outside the Fellowship Hall and take home anything you'd like. Items still left after a few weeks will be donated.

## YOUTH NEWS

### **Graduate and Youth Fundraiser Sunday May 21st**

Our graduates will be recognized in worship. Following the service, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our graduates and for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser. Donations from this event will help offset the cost of youth trips this summer. Youth and families are asked to help with the set up and serving lunch. Look for the Signup genius in the youth email newsletter and sign up to help.

**On Saturday, May 20th, 9:00am-12:00pm,** youth and adults will meet in the fellowship hall to decorate for the graduate celebration and prepare the kitchen for the lunch.

### **High School Mission Trip**

July 8–15 in New York City  
Deadline to sign up: May 21  
Details have been sent to families of High School and college students. Talk to Kelsey if you have more questions.

### **Summer MeetUps:**

Gathering together around a common interest

Pickleball with Marina: May 31 & July 5,  
9:00–11:00 am

Hiking with Cathy: TBD

Art with Audrey: TBD

### **Save the Dates**

**Wednesday, May 24:** Last regular Wednesday night, Sundae bar, games, & more.

**Thursday, June 8:** Pool party

**Tuesday, June 13:** Youth Lunch after VBS

**Wednesdays, May 31, June 7, July 5**

5:00-6:00 HS Mission trip planning

6:00-8:00 All youth: Fellowship, Food, Faith, and Fun (F4)

## CHILDREN'S NEWS

### Children's Ministry Dates:

**May 20:** End of school celebration

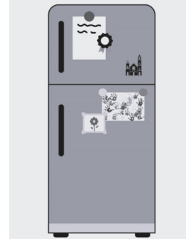
**June 12-16:** VBS

**July 16-19:** Passport

### Note About Passport from LeAnn:

We have filled all of our spots for girls going to PassportKids camp. Please let me know if someone you know would like to attend. I can contact Passport about adding a spot.

## THE FRIDGE DOOR



**A place to display the small moments that make up the larger story of the church**

You have likely noticed how different our library looks lately. Even just glancing through the window as you walk by on your way to the sanctuary, the improvements are noticeable! This is all thanks to Michael Fulwood! While spending time at the church during Lent, Michael gave some much needed care and attention to the library. Often used as random storage, the library is now much more inviting and less cluttered. Michael rearranged the art, books, and items to create an attractive space, especially viewed through the window that we all pass by often. Thanks, Michael! “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our life.”



## NOW. HERE. THIS.

“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our life.”

These words from Annie Dillard in her classic book, *The Writing Life*, haunt me.

We often think of our life as an abstract thing, somehow removed from what we are actually doing, right now. But of course what we are doing now and what we did the day before, and the day before that, and the day before that, is, quite simply, what we have done in our life.

Viewed one way, this can be a bit depressing. Perhaps you are like me and find it hard to remember what I have done from one day to the next, which can leave the impression that we have done nothing. Or at least nothing worthy of our “one wild and precious life,” as the poet Mary Oliver puts it.

Viewed another way—the glass half full sort of way—it can be a welcome splash of cold water to our face to snap us out of the fog of monotony that is so easy to slip into. Or perhaps makes something that can feel so big—what we will do with our life—more manageable. After all, as I often tell my boys (to their great irritation), the only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time.

But I have come to realize this quote haunts me most of all because my understanding of how I spend my days is sadly anemic.

Most of what we do in life cannot be found on our calendars. Yes, we may have blocks for work or school, the commute or running errands or making dinner. Blocks for bedtime routines or for sleeping. And through the lens of productivity or calendar keeping we may look at these things and not see much.

But when we tighten the lens, or zoom in further, we see how much more we actually are doing. We see all the people with whom we interact—with whom we share this life. We see the unattended moments of laughter or tenderness or connection—or opportunities for these things.

We see books read and feelings felt. We see simple tasks accomplished with care and attention. We see children kept safe and provided for and confident in the love that surrounds them. We see moments of attunement to the wonder of creation, or moments of gratitude for health and breath and for another day. Moments when we are reminded that, to borrow from Frederick Buechner, we might not have been, but here we are.

And perhaps we see opportunities for these things that we have missed. So be it.

“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our life.”

I’m challenged by the clarity of these words, and hope they would inspire me to greater discipline and deeper imagination.

But I am also reminded that when Jesus spoke of abundant life he was not speaking of things easily included on a calendar.

The real invitation of Annie Dillard's words may not be to readjust our notion of time, but to remind ourselves of what it means to live, abundantly. And then ask, How will I spend today?

SHD

**NOTES AND DOODLES**

## 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 in memory of my husband, Harvey Smith, my parents, my sisters, and my brothers, by Annette Smith



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