



*"Peter's Vision," by Frank Wesley*



THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 23, 2023  
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
FBC SANCTUARY  
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
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*We live in a world that is full of corruption, vice, injustice, and oppression. As Christians, we have to condemn all of this with a clear and prophetic voice. But at the same time we have to be careful not to fall into the trap of acting as if the Church were only for people "like us." When in any of our churches people are rejected...it is time for us to stop and reflect on this episode of Peter and Cornelius, and ask ourselves what is the meaning for us today when we declare that "God shows no partiality."*

- Justo Gonzalez

Gathering Music

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Frederick C. Atkinson / Arr. Mark Hayes. © 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corporation

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Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

"Album Leaf"

J. C. Schmugel/David Paxton. © 1987, Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corporation

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LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

\* Call to Worship

Jesse Heilman

Leader: God calls each of us in the way we will best hear,

**People: bringing people together to serve the kingdom's purpose.**

Leader: God calls each of us with all our background experience and baggage,

**People: bringing people together to reveal how far grace can reach.**

Leader: God calls each of us from our certainty and our confusion,

**People: bringing people together to worship and to do what is right.**

\* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 205)

"Christ is Alive"

TRURO

\* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

*If able, please text or message someone from the congregation and share with them the sign of peace.*

\* Responding in Peace (CONG 196, vs. 2)

"Alleluia No. 1"

ALLELUIA NO. 1

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.**

\* Gospel Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Matthew 9.36-37

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

*\* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able*

## People: Thanks be to God!

Response to the Gospel

"I Love to Tell the Story"

A. Catherine Hankey/Wm. G. Fischer/ Arr. Joel Raney © 2006 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission CCLI #20126570

Children's Sermon

### SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

**God of new beginnings, we confess that we have very definite ideas about what you can and cannot do, and we are all too willing to constrain your freedom when it threatens our comfort or tradition. We confess that we didn't think you meant *those* people, and we are surprised to find evidence of your presence and gifts in them. Forgive us, loving God. Surprise us again today with the extent of your grace, crossing the lines we draw, blurring the categories we create, broadening our interpretation of your word. However shocked we may be at the others around your table, may we be open enough to receive the wonders of being part of your beloved community without needing to control it. Gather us in with all your children, that together we may live as your Body in the world, trusting in your resurrection power.**

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Rise up from the dust! Cast off the shroud of sorrow and put on the joy of the Lord. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Frederick C. Maker / Mark Hayes. © 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corporation  
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\* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

**(Those wishing to attend Children's Church may leave now)**

### PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

New Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant  
Acts 10:1-7

Ministry of Music

"Be Thou My Vision"

Trad. Irish Melody/ Arr. Nathan Pacheco © 1974 Carl Fischer, Inc. Used by permission CCLI #20126570

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Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant  
"The Clarity of Our Categories"

\* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 236)

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"  
ADORO TE DEVOTE

\* Life of the Church

\* Benediction

Postlude

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"  
H. Ernest Nichol / James Denton. © 1987, Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corporation  
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*The flowers on the altar this morning are given for the greater glory of God!*

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Jesse Heilman

Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson      Vocalist: Joe Karnes

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Livestream Video Crew: Matthew Johnston, Susan Pauls      Sound: Brandon Gillette

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Laura McCorkill      Welcome Table: Kimberly Sturtevant

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Redemption Hill Church

American Baptist Churches, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Yvonne B. Carter, serving the Cleveland Baptist Assoc.

International Ministries Missionary: Madeline Flores-Lopez, serving in the Dominican Republic

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Every member of First Baptist Church, like every disciple of Christ, is commissioned to participate in Christian ministry.  
The following persons have been called by this congregation to empower such ministry:

Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant — [matt@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:matt@firstbaptistlawrence.com)  
Rev. Cristina Adams — [cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com)  
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Senior Pastor  
Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families  
Administrative Support Manager  
Bookkeeper  
Building Manager  
Digital Media Coordinator  
Director of Worship Music  
Organist & Chancel Choir accompanist  
8:38 a.m. Worship Pianist

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