



"Jacob Wrestling with the Angel," Bartholomeus Breenbergh, 1639



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Anyone can ask and anyone can bless, whether anyone has authorized you to do it or not. All I am saying is that the world needs you to do this, because there is a real shortage of people willing to kneel wherever they are and recognize the holiness holding its sometimes bony, often tender, always life-giving hand above their heads. That we are able to bless one another at all is evidence that we have been blessed, whether we can remember when or not. That we are willing to bless one another is miracle enough to stagger the very stars.

— Barbara Brown Taylor

Gathering Music

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Martin Luther/Marilynn Ham. © 2003 The FJH Music Company, Inc. Used with permission of FJH Music Company, Inc.

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

“All Glory to Jesus”

John W. Peterson/Paul Mickelson & Chas. Magnuson. © 1976 Singspiration, The Zondervan Corp.,
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* Call to Worship

Neal Purvis

Leader: Divine promises, received and remembered:

People: to wait for, to work toward, to wrestle with.

Leader: Divine power, saving and transforming:

People: making and marking us God’s own.

Leader: Divine purpose, pushing and pulling:

People: challenging and changing us into blessing.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Praise (CONGR 418)

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

* 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 (CONGR 318, v. 2)

“For All the Love”

ENGLEBERG

**For all the truth from wisdom’s lighted page,
undimmed and pure, that shines from age to age,
God’s holy Word, our priceless heritage: Alleluia!**

* Gospel Reading

Mark 14.32-36

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

People: Thanks be to God!

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

Children's Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer

"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"

Words: Fred Kaan/Tune: St. Columba/Choral setting: Jane Holstein. Words: © 1989, 2001 by Hope Publishing Co/
Music: © 2002 by Hope Publishing Co. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

You are a God of close relationship, a God who sits down beside us, gets your hands dirty, stays in it with us. We confess that we are tempted to treat you with kid gloves, to be careful what we say, holding back some of the whole truth, just in case. Yet you reach out and draw us in to full, real, presence. You put your whole heart in and ask us to do the same. Forgive us when we hold back because we don't want to be changed. Forgive us when we turn away because you don't fit our neat categories. Forgive us when we aren't willing to invest in our relationship with you. Wrestle away our idols, our self-sufficiency, our need to get our own way, and bless us with a glimpse of your face and an abiding knowledge of your saving grace.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Even as we have insisted on our own way, there is One who chooses to bless us. Rise, forgiven and blessed.

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.

Prayer Response (CONGR 611, vs. 1-2)

"He Hideth My Soul"

KIRKPATRICK

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"Song Without Words Op. 53 No. 1"

Mendelssohn. © 1915 G. Schirmer, Inc. Public domain.

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 32.9-13 & 22-30

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
"A Blessed Life"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 532)

“Hands of Blessing”

ELLESDIE

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

“Sortie in F”

J. L. Battmann. © 1923 Lorenz Publishing Co., The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission. CCLI #20126570

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given for the greater glory of God by: Nancy Bonner,
in memory of Carol Lynn Anderson.*

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Neal Purvis

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Director of Worship Music & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Livestream Video Crew: Susan Pauls, Joanna Gillette

Sound: Shane Schenkel

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Hannes Combest

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Lawrence Chinese Evangelical Church

American Baptist Churches, USA; Rev. Courtney Davis Olds, Ph.D., serving churches in Rhode Island

International Ministries Missionary: Sarah McCurdy, serving in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

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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

Senior Pastor

Rev. Cristina Adams — cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

Jenny Purvis — office@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Administrative Support Manager

Holly Grassy — holly@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Bookkeeper

Neal Purvis — neal@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Building Manager

Susan Pauls — susan@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Digital Media Coordinator

Mark Robinson — mark@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Director of Worship Music

Evelyn Falen — evelyn@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist

Dr. Christy Miller — christy@firstbaptistlawrence.com

8:38 a.m. Worship Pianist

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* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able