



"PARABLE OF THE SOWER"



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 14, 2024
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 14, 2023

We praise God not to celebrate our own faith but to give thanks for the faith God has in us. To let ourselves look at God, and let God look back at us. And to laugh, and sing, and be delighted because God has called us his own.

-Kathleen Norris

Gathering Music

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LOBE DEN HERREN/ Arr. Mark Hayes © 1983 GlorySound

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

Michael W. Smith/ Arr. Mark Hayes. © 1981 Meadowgreen Music Co./© 1983 GlorySound

Both pieces: Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

"Agnus Dei"

Gabriel Faure/Joseph Prentiss. © 1991, Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Call to Worship

Pat Transue

Leader: Listen!

People: What are we meant to hear?

Leader: Stories of how God works...in seeds and soil, in the darkness of the earth, in the unexpected consequences of growth, in people whose methods surprise us.

People: What if we don't understand?

Leader: Listen again!

People: Thankfully, nothing is hidden forever...we come to hear.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 158)

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET/ Vs. 4 © 1992 Beckenhorst Press

* 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 155)

"We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light"

SIYAHAMBA

We are singing, for the Lord is our light, We are singing, for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, for the Lord is our light, We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, (singing, we are singing) Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, (singing, we are singing), Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

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

Psalm Reading

Pat Transue

Psalm 126

Children's Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 389)

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"
CHILDREN PRAYING

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

Your good news, O God, is precious to us, and we confess that sometimes we treat it like it's fragile, rare, and meant only for the few. All the while you are out scattering good news everywhere, with no thought as to whether the recipients are worthy or ready. Forgive us, for our tendency to judge what communities deserve your grace, and which can safely be ignored. Forgive us, for hoarding your love for ourselves. Forgive us, for focusing so much on the right way to share your good news that we stunt our growth and restrict your harvest. Turn us toward your kingdom ways of sharing far and wide, trusting in your mysterious work under the surface.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God knows the hearts of those who seek forgiveness, and by grace you have been saved. In Jesus' name you are forgiven. Your sins are no more. You have been made clean. God strengthens you with freedom, through the Holy Spirit, in Christ Jesus.

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 404, vs. 1)

"I Need Thee Every Hour"
NEED

**I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
Refrain: I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee! O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.**

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

God at Work: What FBC Means to Me

Offertory

"No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus"

C.F. Weigle/Mark Hayes. © 1983 Singspiration/© 1983 GlorySound. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

*Gospel Reading

Mark 4:1-9

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

"Bad Farmers?"

*Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 609)

"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

WONDERFUL GRACE

*Life of the Church

*Benediction

Postlude

"Give Praise to God"

Robert J. Powell. © 1992 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Pat Transue

Director of Worship Music and Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Livestream Video Crew: Matthew Johnston, Glenn Prescott Sound: Marylee Southard

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Jenny Purvis

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Redemption Hill Church

ABC, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Dr. Alfred Fletcher, serving churches in Maine

International Ministries Missionary: Kit Ripley, serving in Thailand

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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

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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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