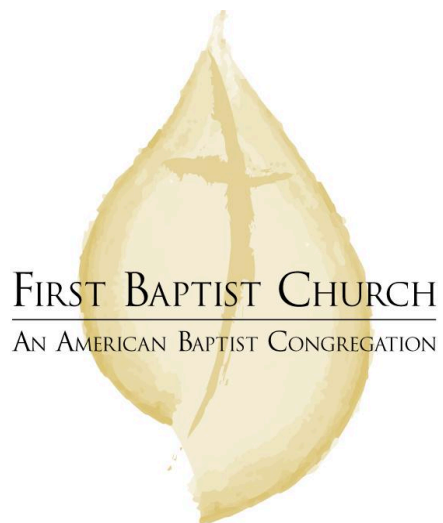


Photo by Lynn Lin



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2024
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2024

All congregations can point with justifiable pride to certain aspects of their life and ministry. Quite often their identity is shaped by these things they do well. The question this passage raises is, "Are these things done with love?" Or perhaps it could be phrased, "How might they be done with greater love?" The gong may not yet be noisy and the cymbal not yet clanging, but how might these things a congregation does well be enhanced with love?

—Jeffrey D. Jones

Gathering Music

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Beethoven/Victor Labenske

"Jesus the King Medley"

Arr. Victor Labenske

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Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

"In a World Where Love Abides"

Carl Simone. © 1987 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Call to Worship

Neal Purvis

Leader: Come, beloved of God,

People: laying aside the hard and harsh ways of the world.

Leader: Come, beloved of God,

People: to practice the patient and kind ways of love.

Leader: Come, beloved of God,

People: to trust the love that holds fast in all things.

All: Hearts soft and minds open, we come.

* Hymn of Praise (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 (CONGR 212, vs. 1, 5)

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

GELOBT SEI GOTT

**O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**On this most holy day of days be laud and jubilee and praise:
to God your hearts and voices raise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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

* Gospel Reading

Rev. Cristina Adams
Mark 12.28-31

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 215)

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"
DARWALL

Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Cristina Adams

Unison Discipline of Confession

Your love stands firm, no matter how hard we push, O God. We press for advantage, and still your love stands firm. Forgive our shallow hearts, O God. Remind us that when we do not practice love, all else we do is just that: performance, getting attention but leaving us only hollow nothingness. You have shown us the more excellent way, the way that leads to life deeper than the mask, the way that satisfies every longing. May your forgiveness draw us into practice, building up our capacity to love more and more, as you do.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God is love—love that withstands all things, even the worst we can do. God is love—love that believes all things, even the unbelievable. God is love—love that endures all things, even to the end of the age. And this love is for you. This love surrounds you. This love is in you. Live in Love, and be at peace.

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

College Graduate Recognition

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"Your Grace Still Amazes Me"

Shawn Craig/Connie Harrington. © 2001 Arios Music, Praise Song Press, & BMG Songs, Inc.
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* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

New Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
I Corinthians 13.1-13

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
"A Still More Excellent Way"

CELEBRATING THE TABLE OF GRACE

Call to Communion

"At This Table"
Shirley Erena Murray/Allen Pote. Words © 1996 Hope Publishing Company.
Music © 2006 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Invitation to the Table

Celebration of the Bread and Cup

"Here at Your Table, Lord"
William F. Sherwin/Mark Hayes. © 2015 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.
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* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 272)

"They'll Know We Are Christians"
ST. BRENDAN'S

* Life of the Church

* Benediction

Postlude

"Recessional"
Stanley E. Saxton. © 1991 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Neal and Jenny Purvis in honor of Jeff Hutchinson.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant

Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, & Families: Rev. Cristina Adams

Liturgist: Neal Purvis

Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Vocal Soloist: Joe Karnes

Livestream Video Crew: Brenda Schenkel, Glenn Prescott • Sound: Jim Lord

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Jenny Purvis

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: United Church of Christ

American Baptist Churches, USA: Executive Min. Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran,
serving the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains

International Ministries Global Servant: Dilia Zelaya, serving in Azacualpa, Honduras

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* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able

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 Manager
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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1330 KASOLD DRIVE, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66049
PHONE: 785/843.0020 • FAX: 785/843.0021 • EMAIL: OFFICE@FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM