



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

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Most of us can read the writing on the wall; we just assume it's addressed to someone else. — William McFeeley

Gathering Music

“A Child of the King”

John B. Sumner/Marilynn Ham. © 1987 Lillenas Pub. Co.

“Rock Medley”

Marilynn Ham. © 1987 Lillenas Pub. Co.

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Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

“The First and the Last”

Joel Houston, Reuben Morgan. © 2009 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia/Hillsong Music Publishing (admin. Capitol CMG Publishing). Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Call to Worship

Chad Johnston

Psalm 19

Leader: Look at the heavens!

People: They are shouting the glory of God.

Leader: The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works.

People: Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.

Leader: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

People: Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!

* Hymn of Praise (CONGR 590)

“The Solid Rock”

SOLID ROCK

* 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 306, vs. 2)

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

MADRID

* Gospel Reading

Rev. Cristina Adams

John 3.1–7

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Rev. Cristina Adams

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 386)

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"
ST. AGNES

Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Unison Discipline of Confession

You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen; you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it. We have taken what you have given us and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you. We have refused to be tamed by your wisdom. Forgive our inability to recognize you and live out the reality of your gospel. Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives so that our words and actions reflect the glory of God in the lives of others.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The law of the Lord is perfect, and it revives the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure and make wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing in the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, and it enlightens the eyes. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ, the living Word, we are forgiven. Live in 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.

Prayer Response

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Words by Thomas Chisholm. Music by William Runyan. Choral Setting by Cindy Berry.
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RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"Open My Eyes"

Clara H. Scott/David Schwoebel. © 1998 MorningStar Music Pub. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Those attending Children's Church may leave now.)

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
Daniel 5.13-31

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

“Discernment in the World: Reading the Writing on the Wall”

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 648)

“Stir Your Church, O God, Our Father”

MADILL

* Life of the Church

* Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude in E Minor”

Edward Broughton. © MCMLXXXVII Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.
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The flowers on the altar this morning are given for the greater glory of God.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant

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

Liturgist: Chad Johnston • Organist: Evelyn Falen • Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Livestream Video Crew: Joanna Gillette, Brenda Schenkel • Sound: Marylee Southard

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Fellowship Baptist Church

American Baptist Churches, USA: Executive Min. Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley,
serving the American Baptist Churches of Metro New York

International Ministries Global Servants: Sue Hegarty, serving in South Africa

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<https://unsplash.com/photos/a-woman-writing-on-a-whiteboard-in-a-room-Uko2SpO9Qzg>

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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

Rev. Cristina Adams – cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com

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Senior Pastor

Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

Administrative Support Manager

Bookkeeper

Building Manager

Digital Media Manager

Director of Worship Music

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist

8:38 a.m. Worship Pianist

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* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able