



*Photo by Sonja Wilkinson*



THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 31, 2025  
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
FBC SANCTUARY  
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 31, 2025

*We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.*

—Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)  
*Benedictine abbess, author, composer, and visionary*

Gathering Music

“Down in My Heart”

George W. Cooke/Marilynn Ham. © 1997 Lillenas Pub. Co. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

“My God and I”

Austris A. Wihtol/Paul Mickelson & Chas. Magnuson. © 1963 Singspiration Inc./Zondervan Corp./  
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LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

\* Call to Worship

Laura McCorkill

Psalm 148

Leader: Let everything that has being praise the name of the Lord!

**People: Mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars, shall praise the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Young men and women alike, old and young together shall praise the name of the Lord.

**People: We shall praise your name, O God, for your glory is above earth and heaven.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

\* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 307 vss 1–4)

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\* 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!**

\* Responding in Peace (CONGR 307 vs 5)

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\* Gospel Reading

Laura McCorkill

John 1.1–5

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 59)

“My Lord Is Near Me All the Time”

FOREST PARK

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

Prayers of the People

Leader: In this season of rejoicing amidst your creation, let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings for the church and the world. For the well-being of your creation, that we may promote its ability to offer praise to you through spacious skies, bountiful seas, verdant lands, and precious creatures great and small. O God of love,

**People: Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Leader: For the life of the church, that our generous witness may broaden your table as all find a place to live and grow in love. O God of love,

**People: Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Leader: For the welfare of your world, that all leaders and people young and old will strive to live together in harmony while serving the common good. O God of love,

**People: Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Leader: For all who suffer any violence, pain, or grief, that they will know the comfort of your presence as you wipe every tear from their eyes. O God of love,

**People: Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Leader: For the love made known to us in Jesus Christ through this community, for this and all other blessings we give you thanks and praise. O God of love,

**People: Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Leader: For all who have died, that you will bring them to the fullness of your joy, where mourning and pain will be no more. O God of love,

**People: Raise us to new life in Christ.**

Leader: For so many blessings, and for answered prayers, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

The 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

*"The Potter's Hand"*

Words & music by Darlene Zschech, choral setting by Lloyd Larson. © 1997 and this arr. © 2002  
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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

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

New Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant  
Revelation 21.1-6 and 22.1-5

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

"Peace with Creation: God Will Tend a Garden Again"

\* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 159)

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADERS' HYMN (ST. ELIZABETH)

\* Life of the Church

\* Benediction

Postlude

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Meyer Lyon/Gordon Young. © 1980 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

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*The flowers on the altar are given for the greater glory of God in honor of Matt's 49th birthday  
by Kimberly, Addison, and Ethan Sturtevant.*

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant

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

Liturgist: Laura McCorkill • Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Livestream Video Crew: Brenda Schenkel, Steve Yoder • Sound: Marylee Southard

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Susan Pauls

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Calvary Lawrence

American Baptist Churches, USA: Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Mindi Welton-Mitchell,  
serving the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

International Ministries Global Servants: Mayra Giovanetti & Carlos Bonilla,  
serving in Iberoamerica & the Caribbean

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8/28/2025 at <https://unsplash.com/photos/green-pine-trees-near-river-under-blue-sky-during-daytime-rYSCJ7rz17o>

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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

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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

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