



"Hagar in the Wilderness"
Oil painting by French artist Camille Corot, 1835



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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...as a symbol of the oppressed, Hagar becomes many things to many people....She is the faithful maid exploited, the black woman used by the male and abused by the female of the ruling class, the surrogate mother, the resident alien without legal recourse, the other woman, the runaway youth, the religious fleeing from affliction, the pregnant young woman alone, the expelled wife, the divorced mother with child, the shopping bag lady carrying bread and water, the homeless woman, the indigent relying upon handouts from the power structures, the welfare mother, and the self-effacing female whose identity shrinks in service to others.

—Phyllis Trible

Gathering Music

“Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”

Arr. Mark Hayes. © 1983 Glory-Sound/Shawnee Press, Inc. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

“Blessed Quietness”

W.S. Marshall/Robert J. Hughes. © 1987 Lorenz Pub. Co./Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Call to Worship

Joanna Gillette
Psalm 113

Leader: Praise the Lord, O servants of the Lord!

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 350)

“Blessed Be the Name”
BLESSED NAME

* 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 509, vs 2)

“Trust and Obey”
TRUST AND OBEY

* Gospel Reading

Joanna Gillette
Luke 16.10-13

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

“Wayfaring Stranger”

Traditional spirituals, arr. by Michael Key. © 1993 Hinshaw Music, Inc.
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** In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able*

Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

Gracious God, you know our sin: We have squandered the gifts you have given us. We have failed to forget our debtors as you have forgiven us. We have been unfaithful and dishonest in small things and great things alike. We are shrewd in seeking wealth and foolish in following your way. Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake. Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given and generous in forgiving others.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Our loving God desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Morning Prayer and 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.

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Faith in Action

John Mathis

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"Trust and Obey" (Bach's *Minuet in G*)

Daniel B. Towner/Gail Smith. © 1997 Lillenas Pub. Co./Lillenas Pub.Co. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Genesis 21.2, 8-21

Ministry of Music

"Even If"

Tim Timmons, Crystal Lewis, David Garcia, Ben Glover and MercyMe. © 2017 Tunes of MercyMe (SESAC), Letsbebeautiful/All Essential Music (ASCAP), Crystalized (ASCAP), & D Soul Music/Universal Music Brentwood Benson Publishing/9t One Songs/Ariose Music (ASCAP).
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Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

"Faith in Action: Hagar"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 658)

"Let Your Heart Be Broken"

WYE VALLEY (abridged)

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

"March of the Victorious"

Henry T. Smart/James Denton. © 1987 Lorenz Pub. Co./Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

The flowers on the altar are given for the greater glory of God.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant

Liturgist: Joanna Gillette • Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson • Vocal Soloist: Joe Karnes

Livestream Video Crew: Jim Lord, Brandon Gillette • Sound: Marylee Southard

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Christ Covenant (Reformed Presbyterian) Church

American Baptist Churches, USA: Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Harry L. Riggs, II,
serving the American Baptist churches of Connecticut

International Ministries Global Servants: Ann & Bill Clemmer, serving in Africa

Faith in Action Partner: Darrell Vann, Lunch Manager at L.I.N.K.

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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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