



Photo by Rev. Dr. Angie Barker Jackson



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026

The divine Spirit and our human spirits – in a perpetual evolutionary motion, seeking to co-create a new and different world for the benefit of all... to deliver a different kind of world more radiant with meaning and hope.

– Diarmuid O'Murchu, Ecological Spirituality

Gathering Music

“Great Is the Lord”

Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith/Marilynn Ham. © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Co.,
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Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

“Let's Just Praise the Lord”

William J. & Gloria Gaither/Bill Fasig & John Innes. © 1978 William J. Gaither Inc.
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LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

Choral Call to Worship

“Total Praise”

Words & music by Richard Smallwood; arr. Patrick Barrett & Doreen Rao. © 1996 & this
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* Call to Worship

Shane Schenkel

Isaiah 12.3–5

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

People: Give thanks to the LORD; call on his name.

Leader: Make known his deeds among the nations;

People: proclaim that his name is exalted.

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

People: let this be known in all the earth.

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 27)

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

* 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 20)

“Creation Sings”

CREATION SINGS

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 22.36–40

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

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

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 6)

“Creator God, Creating Still”
ST. ANNE

Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. John Williams

Unison Discipline of Confession

Creation brings you joy, O God, and it is meant to be a joy for all your creatures too. We confess that we so rarely stop to rejoice, to marvel at the beauty of towering trees or well-watered pastures, to dance and sing with the birds and badgers, to watch as your light shimmers across the sky. Instead we admit that we look for how we can use it, how we can harness the power, manipulate the moving pieces, and make the creation serve us. Forgive us when we think of life as a competition, forgetting you made us to flourish all together, or not at all. Set us back in right relationship, not only with you but also with all that you have made.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Do not be afraid. The One who was and is and is to come knows you and has overcome death and sin to forgive you, so that you might be delivered into joy that has no end.

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

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

“Nocturne Op. 16 No. 3”
Frederic Chopin. © 1943 G. Schirmer, Inc. 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. Dr. Angie Barker Jackson
Psalm 1 (First Nations Version)

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Angie Barker Jackson
“More than a Metaphor”

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 482)

“Here I Am, Lord”
HERE I AM, LORD

- * Life of the Church
- * Benediction

Postlude

Psalm 19 “The Heavens Declare”

Benedetto Marcello/E. Power Biggs. © 1947 Mercury Music Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

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

TODAY IN WORSHIP

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Angie Barker Jackson

Liturgists: Rev. John Williams & Shane Schenkel

Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Livestream Video Crew: Steve Yoder, Jim Lord • Sound: Becky Harris

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: The Valley Church

American Baptist Churches, USA: Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Miriam Méndez, serving the

American Baptist Churches of New Jersey

International Ministries Global Servant: Ruth Vindas, serving in Costa Rica

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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	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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* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able