

Photo by Peter Dyllong

First Baptist Church
An American Baptist Congregation

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026
Online and In-Person Worship
FBC Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.

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In lament, our task is never to convince someone of the brokenness of this world; it is to convince them of the world's worth in the first place. True lament is not born from that trite sentiment that the world is bad but rather from a deep conviction that it is worthy of goodness.

– Cole Arthur Riley

Gathering Music — "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" with Mozart's "Symphony No. 40"

Lizzie S. Tourjee | Marilynn Ham. © 2006 Alfred Music Pub. Co., Inc.
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Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude — "If God Himself Be for Me"

Irish Melody | Dale Wood. © 2001 The Sacred Music Press | Lorenz. Corp.
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Lifting Our Voices in Praise

* Call to Worship — Shane Schenkel
Psalm 96

Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.
People: Tell of God's saving power from day to day.
Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.
People: Tremble before God, all the earth.

* Hymn of Praise (CONGR 453) — "Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God"
CHRISTE SANCTORUM, alt.

Walking in Newness of Life

Celebration of Baptism of Bennett Kinder

* Hymn of Response (CONGR 450) — "With Water Freely Flowing"
MERLE'S TUNE

* 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 278, v 2) — "We Are Travelers on a Journey"
BEACH SPRING

* Gospel Reading — Shane Schenkel
Luke 13.34–35

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

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

Children's Sermon

Sharing Ourselves in Prayer

Call to Prayer — "Give Me Jesus"

Traditional spiritual. Arr. by Howard Helvey (ASCAP); transcribed by Craig Courtney (ASCAP).
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Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

Tender God, we confess that we have forgotten what it means to feel fully. We have demeaned sadness as a lesser emotion, wielding it against women who are attuned to their pain and the pain of the world in a way we all should be. We have not cared well for little boys whose weeping is mocked and dismissed, training men toward an emotional constriction that poisons us all. We have exalted toxic positivity over complicated emotions, often rushing toward quick solutions and trite words of consolation instead of pausing to truly let suffering speak. We have been threatened by the tears of another more than we have tried to behold them, centering our own inability to be present to pain. Forgive us, God. Have mercy on all who dare to weep, who listen and heed the cries of the world. Forgive those who have forgotten how to lament, and grant that our souls might be moved at last, protected from despair on the journey.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Let your soul receive this rest: May the God of many sorrows behold your tears before rushing to wipe them away. May they protect your grief from those who have everything to gain from its erasure. And may they have mercy on you and cradle you as you dare cry out for comfort in your own time.

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

Moment for Mission — Deacon's Fund

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory — "Meditation Op. 67 No. 1"

Mendelssohn. © 1915 G. Schirmer, Inc. Public domain.

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Proclaiming the Truth with Hope

Old Testament Reading — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Lamentations 3.14–26

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Sermon — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
"B-Sides of the Old Testament: Lamentations"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 398) **(Evelyn, piano)** — "Jesus, Walk Beside Me"
BEULAH

Life of the Church

* Benediction

* Postlude — "Trumpet Tune"

Henry Purcell | Darwin Wolford. © 1992 Harold Flammer Music | Shawnee Press, Inc.
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The flowers on the altar today are given for the greater glory of God.

TODAY IN WORSHIP
Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant
Liturgist: Shane Schenkel
Children's & Youth Ministry Intern: Nick Schemper
Director of Worship Music & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson
Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen • Chancel Choir Flutist: Carol Watgen
Livestream Video Crew: Steve Yoder, Glenn Prescott • Sound: Scott Lamb
YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Susan Pauls

REMEMBER IN PRAYER
Local Church: Centenary United Methodist Church
American Baptist Churches, USA: Interim Executive Min. Rev. Joan Friesen, serving the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
International Ministries Global Servant: Mylinda Baits, serving as a global consultant

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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
Nick Schemper—nick@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Children's and Youth Ministry Intern
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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