

"A Couple"
Image by Mike Leipzig

First Baptist Church
An American Baptist Congregation

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026
Online and In-Person Worship
FBC Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.

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Thin places are real. And God disrupts our lives in those places to speak and to lead. How willing are we to be in awe, and then to respond in faith? How willing are we to imagine a world different than one we inhabited? How possible is it that we might find awe in the middle of nowhere on our way to somewhere we don't yet know?

– Valerie Bridgeman

Gathering Music — "Joy Song"

Mark Hayes. © 1988 GlorySound | Shawnee Press, Inc. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude — "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Ludwig van Beethoven | Edward Broughton. © 1993 Lorenz Pub. Co. | The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Lifting Our Voices in Praise

* Call to Worship — Aimee Omohundro

Psalm 70

Leader: Rejoice and be glad!
People: For God is our salvation.
Leader: Rejoice and be glad!
People: For God is great.

* Hymn of Praise (CONGR 215) — "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

TUNE: DARWALL. Accompaniment on last verse by Janet Linker. 1992 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* 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 306, v 1) — "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

MADRID

* Gospel Reading — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Luke 15.17–32

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

Children's Sermon

Sharing Ourselves in Prayer

Call to Prayer — "One Song"

Words & music: Pepper Choplin (ASCAP). © 2002 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

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

Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you by not honoring you or loving one another. When we ignore injustice in the world our worship brings you no delight. Make haste to help us, that we may stand in right relationship with you and the whole of your creation and sing your praises.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved ones, rejoice and be glad, for God is mighty to save and comes to you in peace to forgive, restore, and strengthen you eternally in Christ.

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.

Prayer Response — "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Conrad Kocher (1786–1872), arr. Cathy Moklebust. © 2008 Choristers Guild.
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Returning Our Gifts in Gratitude

Moment for Mission — Dava Cooper, FBC Finance Team

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory — "Simple Gifts"

Shaker Melody | Mark Hayes. © 1988 GlorySound | Shawnee Press, Inc.
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* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Proclaiming the Truth with Hope

Old Testament Reading — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant, Genesis 28.10–17

Sermon — Rev. Matthew Sturtevant, "The Family of God: Jacob and His Family"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 680) — "I Then Shall Live", FINLANDIA

* Life of the Church

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* Benediction

* Postlude "Trumpet Voluntary"

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: Aimee Omohundro
Director of Worship Music & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson
Bell Choir Director: Becky Harris • Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen
Livestream Video Crew: Joanna Gillette, Steve Yoder • Sound: Brandon Gillette
YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Susan Pauls

REMEMBER IN PRAYER
Local Church: Community Church of God
American Baptist Churches, USA: Executive Min. Rev. Jay Noll, serving the American Baptist Churches of Vermont & New Hampshire
International Ministries Global Servant: Mayra Giovanetti & Carlos Bonilla, serving throughout Iberoamerica & the Caribbean

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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
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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