



# THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WORCESTER

*A Welcoming and Affirming Church  
A Safe Space for All*

*First gathered in 1812*



***Order of Worship***  
*The 5th Week of Celebrationtide*  
*October 8, 2017*  
*10:00 AM*

## **Thoughts on Worship**

This week we continue our season of Celebrationtide by reflecting on what it means to belong. If, as we discussed last week, we are all God's beloved, what does that mean for us in practice? Do we all feel like we belong? If not, what needs to change?

# Prelude

## Call to Worship

One: Meet us here today, O God of Unity,

**Many: And teach us to be one:**

One: One in love for each other

**Many: One in commitment to listening to each other**

One: One in peace with all who find paths to your Truth.

**Many: That as Jesus prayed,**

**All: We might all be one.**

## Opening Prayer

*from John 17:15-26*

## The Lord's Prayer

### \* Gloria Patri

### \* Processional Hymn

17 Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him

*Austrian Hymn*

## Welcome from the Church

### \* Greeting One Another in Grace

*You are invited to share the grace of Christ with one another.*

## Moment of Simplicity

*Children come forward for a time of Churchcraft and digital art.*

# **The Offering of Our Gifts**

*The ministries of our church are possible because of the generous gifts you pledge in support. At this time, you are invited to give your offering, as you are able.*

## **Offertory**

“Turn Thee, again, O Lord” Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

## **Doxology**

147 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

## **The Reading of the Scriptures**

Acts 15:36-41 (pg. 900)

One: May the Spirit of Wisdom lead us to understanding.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## **\* Congregational Hymn**

32 Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

*Canonbury*

## **Prayers of the People**

## **Sermon**

*Belonging*

*Reverend Brent Newberry*

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

*Pause for a moment of personal reflection.*

## **Partnering in Church Life**

*Just as we arrived this morning in faith, so too, we depart to be faithful partners in the work of God. Listen now for opportunities to connect more richly in the life of First Baptist.*

## \* **Closing Hymn**

123 Fairest Lord Jesus

*Crusader's Hymn*

## **Benediction**

The chancel flowers this week were donated by David Sawin in remembrance of Lois Sawin.

# Who We're Praying for This Week

- Ruth H.
- Sue Berry
- John Torrisi
- Margaret Cudd
- Inge K.
- Wen Yang W.
- Joyce J.
- Rose
- Rose's Mom, Mary Lou
- Paul F.
- Gordon B.
- Nate and his fellow troops, as well as their families, on their deployment overseas.
- For those who have suffered loss and tragedy in Las Vegas.
- For those recovering in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.
- Those with unspoken needs that are close to the chest but weigh heavily on their hearts, and our loved ones with various prayer needs..
- Our friends who are unable to join us, whether it's due to traveling, illness, injury, or difficulty of transportation.
- Our church, that we will continue to be a beacon of hope and peace amidst the rancor, and a voice of reconciliation and justice amidst violence and hatred.
- Unity for our nation, and unity and resolve for our church to continue to pursue the Way of Jesus regardless of whom we voted for, by seeking justice, loving mercy, and following God.
- For all those worldwide who have suffered loss, tragedy and pain from recent hazards and attacks.

## **Contact Us**

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The Reverend Brent A. Newberry, Pastor  
Wesley Hall, Minister of Music and Arts

# Thanks for being here!

We are so glad you worshipped together with us this morning! Thank you for being here. Each of you matters to us, and we hope to get to know you better. We are a Welcoming & Affirming Church, and a Safe Space for all people.

What that means: Who you are, and how you're created is a gift to this world and this faith community, and we celebrate the ways your life gives witness to the way of Christ in both. Maybe it's your race or nationality, your age or vocation, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your faith background, your political affiliation or personal aspirations, you are celebrated here. You are safe here, to fully be who God has created you to be. And if you would like to partner in ministry with us, we have no doubt that your participation will make us a better faith community.

We have weekly opportunities for learning and friendship. Check out our Announcement Flyer or subscribe from our website's home page ([www.fbc-worc.org](http://www.fbc-worc.org)) to our weekly e-newsletter on the happenings of our church.

Following our services each week, we invite you to join us in Gordon Hall for coffee and refreshments, our treat! If you're new, we'd love a chance to get to know you, and if you're a regular, well, you know what to do--make a new friend! Gordon Hall is located through the exit to your right (the pulpit side).

All-Gender Restrooms are available in the rear of the sanctuary or to the exit to your right, near Gordon Hall. If you still aren't sure of their location, ask a new friend--they'll be happy to show you the way!

Last but not least! We have connection card inserts. Fill one out and drop it in the offering plate, and our Pastor will be happy to reach out during the week to answer any questions or give you any more information about our great church!