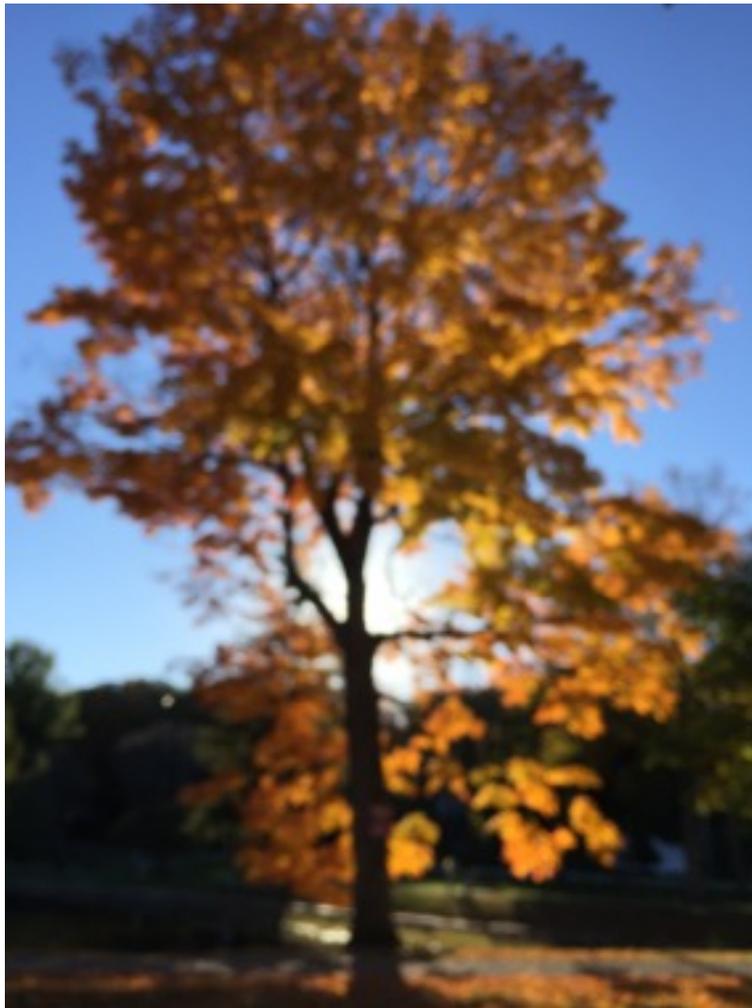




THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WORCESTER

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

First gathered in 1812



Order of Worship

Our Bright Unknown

November 12, 2017

10:00 AM

Thoughts on Worship

What can we learn from weddings, wedding parties, and the wedding party? Join us Sunday to figure it out together.

This month we are joined by Liz Ellis, who is the Community Engagement Coordinator with our mission partner, Heifer International.

* Indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Prayer of Illumination

One: O God, you alone are our God.

Many: Send your Spirit of truth to expose our self-deception

One: And challenge our complacency

Many: So that we may surrender to your mercy and follow your will

All: Through Jesus Christ our Liberator. Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*** 734 Gloria Patri**

*** Processional Hymn**

64 Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise 48

St. Denio

Welcome from the Church

Inside your Order of Worship should be an FBC Connection Card. If you are visiting with us, and if you would like to learn more about our church or ways you can connect more deeply within the life of our church, please fill out the card and place it in the offering plate later on in the service.

Greeting One Another in Grace

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

*** Gathering Song**

76 We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light
(English Version)

The First Reading

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Moment of Christian Witness

Liz Ellis

This month we speak with Liz Ellis from our mission partner Heifer International.

*** Congregational Hymn**

418 Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart

Jacob

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

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” Andre Thomas

*** Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

*** The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 25:1-13 (pg. 806)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Our Bright Unknown

Reverend Brent Newberry

Moment of Silent Reflection

Pause for a moment of personal reflection.

*** Closing Hymn**

76 We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light

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.

Benediction

Last week's flowers were given by George Sinclair in memory of his wife, Marjorie Sinclair.

This week's flowers were given by Lyn Stevens in memory of her parents, Angus & Wynne Macdonald.

Who We're Praying for This Week

- Nina R.
- George Sinclair; Barbara, Tom and Ashley Ward, on the death of Marjorie "Marge" Sinclair.
- The Colleran family
- Vic T. and family
- Barbara Van Schermbeek
- Betty
- Inge K.
- Joyce J.
- Rose's Mom, Mary Lou
- Gordon B.
- Nate and his fellow troops, as well as their families, on their deployment overseas.
- This week we are especially mindful of and grateful for our military veterans, and active duty military personnel.
- For those in Sutherland Springs who are grieving or recovering from the act of terrorism this week.
- 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) 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!