



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF WORCESTER

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

First gathered in 1812



**THE JOURNEY
INWARD**

RENEWAL

Order of Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

10:00 AM

Welcome to First Baptist!

Alguien habla español aquí.

Es gibt hier Leute, die Deutsch sprechen.

May nagsasalita nang Tagalog dito.

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Mizo tawng in tawng kan letling thei reng e.

Temos alguém aqui que fala português.

这里有人说中文。

Kuna mtu hapa anayezungumza Swahili.

يکی اینجا فارسی صحبت میکنه

Ici on parle français.

Thoughts on Worship

This Sunday we light the Renewal Candle. Similar to the Joy Candle of Advent, we indulge this week of Lent as a joyous reprieve from the arduous journey of Lent. In some Western Christian traditions, the fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare* Sunday, a rendering from Latin that means “rejoice.” Similarly, before the modern lectionary’s prominence, the traditional Scripture reading for this *Laetare* Sunday was what we are reading today: the miracle of the loaves and fish. So, let us rejoice in the goodness of God this Sunday, and let us be renewed on our journey inward--toward God and one another.

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

Renewal Candle

Prelude

Praeludium in E Moll, BWV 543, J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Wesley Hall

Lighting of the Renewal Candle

One: A time of journeying and fasting can create the need for rest. This week we light the Renewal Candle as a reminder and an invitation: to give ourselves permission to rest and rejoice,

Many: Trusting that the light of God's grace will renew us on the Way.

* Song of Renewal

448 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

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.

* Congregational Hymn

424 How Can I Keep from Singing

Endless Song

The Reading of the Scriptures

John 6:1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they

saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

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

Morning Has Broken

Brielle Stovall, Wesley Hall

*** Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Moment of Wonder

Children may come forward at this time. Following the Moment of Wonder, they are invited to head up to Sunday School with their teachers.

*** Song of Renewal**

448 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Sermon

Renewal: Reclaiming Our Time

Reverend Brent Newberry

Prayers of the People

Communion

This week, we observe communion by intinction. As you are invited forward, receive the bread, and then dip it into the cup. You may respond by saying "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." Then you may head back around to your seat.

The Words of Institution

At First Baptist we celebrate open communion. Whatever your faith tradition, you are invited to receive the bread and cup of Christ.

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.

Communion Anthem

Ave Verum Corpus, Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

The Chancel Choir

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.

Welcoming our New Members

* Jess Gray

* Brittany Gray

Benediction

Postlude

Praeludium in E Moll, Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Anthony Topper

Who We're Praying for This Week

- Evelyn M.
- Marjorie, Juffred, Elijah and Rocky on the death of Marjorie's mother.
- Dave and Deanna Waters
- Paula, Stephanie, and Michael Harvey on the death of Paula's mother, Joyce Jensen.
- Gordon B.
- For Ginny Young and family on the death of Charlie Young.
- John Torrisi

If you or a loved one would like to be prayed for, please fill out a prayer card and drop it in the offering plate or prayer box.

Contact Us

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The Reverend Brent A. Newberry, Pastor
Wesley Harrison 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!