



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WORCESTER

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

First gathered in 1812



Order of Worship Ascension Sunday

May 13, 2018
10:00 AM

Welcome to First Baptist!

Alguien habla español aquí.

Es gibt hier Leute, die Deutsch sprechen.

May nagsasalita nang Tagalog dito.

ဖဲအံ့ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တို့ကဉ်းကဉ်းကဉ်း

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.

يکى اينجا فارسى صحبت ميکنه

Ici on parle français.

Nwe mbum yu fa wi si myu

Siin on Eesti keele kõnelejad

Thoughts on Worship

As we continue to reflect on that which resurrection calls us to return our focus, we consider together the deep passion God has for us to participate in just-living. All throughout the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, God pleads with God's people to remember the dispossessed and forgotten ones. If God sides with the oppressed and marginalized, what are we to do to align our own lives alongside them and alongside our God?

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

Invitatory

Venite

- 1 O come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God:
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the corners of the earth:
and the strength of the hills is his also.
- 5 The sea is his, and he made it:
and his hands prepared the dry land.
- 6 O come, let us worship, and fall down:
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is the Lord our God:
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Prayer of Illumination

Patty Hubbard

Risen and ascended Christ,
you surround us with witnesses
and send us the Counselor
who opens our minds to understand your teaching.
Bless us with such grace
that our lives may become a blessing for the world
now, and in the age to come. Amen.

* Processional Hymn

317 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

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**

Hakuna mungu kama wewe
Hakuna mungu kama we
Hakuna mungu kama wewe
Hakuna na hatakuwepo

There's no one there's no one like Jesus
There's no one there's no one like God
There's no one there's no one like Jesus
There's no one there's no one like God

Reading of the Scriptures

Acts 1:1-11

Lynne Carroll

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

One: May the Spirit of Wisdom lead us to understanding.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Amy Cuthbert

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Moment of Wonder

Courtney Stevens

+ *Children are invited to go upstairs with their teachers to Sunday School.*

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 Anthem

First Baptist Chancel Choir

Lord of the Dance

Shaker tune, adapted Sydney Carter

*** 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.

Sermon

A Return to Justice: The Prophethood of All Believers *The Reverend Brent Newberry*

Musical Meditation

Prayers of the People

*** Congregational Hymn**

586 Our Cities Cry to You, O God

Salvation

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.

*** Congregational Hymn**

320 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!

Hyfrydol

Benediction

Postlude

Who We're Praying for This Week

- Chrissy L.
- Kendra on the death of her mother, Cathy.
- Brad and Lou J.
- Evelyn M.
- Kristina V.
- Dave and Deanna Waters
- Bette S.
- Gordon B.
- 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!