

*For all that has been*

**THANKS**

*For all that will be*

**YES**

# Our Worship of God

January 21, 2018

9:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

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**Welcome and Announcements**

Brittany McDonald Null

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

Let us worship the eternal God,

**who is ever-faithful, in whom we can trust.**

Let us worship Jesus Christ,

**who takes our burdens from us and lives among us.**

Let us worship the Holy Spirit,

**the Living Presence, who teaches us to be trustworthy.**

To the one true God be praise in all times and places,

**through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**†Opening Song**

God of This City

**Renewal of Our Church Covenant (unison)**

*Because we have responded to Christ's call to follow him as disciples and because we find this calling too difficult and too important to fulfill alone,*

*We covenant together to support and to pray for one another without ceasing; to be candid in our speech, kind in our attitudes, and caring in all our dealings with one another; to seek the mind and vision of Christ for ourselves and our life together, mindful that our unity does not require uniformity.*

*Moreover, we covenant to give first priority to our times of public worship and learning; to sustain our common mission by proportionate giving, faithful service and personal witness; to live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel we profess and of this family of faith; and to seek each other's forgiveness and*

*God's when we fail to honor this covenant, trusting God's Spirit to renew us in stronger faith, brighter hope and broader love.*

## †Passing of the Peace

## †Songs of Praise

Oceans  
Lord I Need You

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

We hear the call to trust in God always,  
But some days our stresses and doubts  
are even more real to us than God, and trust is elusive.  
We remember how Abram dared to believe in God's promises,  
But belief like that is hard to come by.  
We are often inclined to think,  
"God helps those who help themselves,"  
instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator.  
When the world seems filled with dangers,  
we can be quick to protect ourselves,  
And we forget the wisdom of scripture,  
which reminds us that we find traces of evil both  
outside and inside of ourselves.  
With God's help, we confront our fears and struggles,  
and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull.  
Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings.

## Words of Assurance (unison)

Though fear should beset us;  
though danger cause us to close up our doors;  
though troubles assail and lead us away from the ways of grace;  
only one thing is necessary:

**just turn back to God's promise of grace.**

Remember that God is reaching out with loving arms,  
and let yourself be held.

Only ask for forgiveness, and it is ours:

**know that in this moment we have asked**

**and in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Offering**

I Have This Hope

**Scripture Reading**

Jason Tratchel

Genesis 15:1-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with

Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

Covenant

Carol McEntyre

**†Song of Response**

How Great Thou Art

**†Benediction (responsive)**

We've built community, we've worshiped together,  
we've served together, we've grown in faith.

For all that has been,

**Thanks!**

For all that will be,

**Yes!**

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# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, January 21

**4-4:50 pm First Kids Music**

*Sanctuary*

## Monday, January 22

**9-10:30 am Senior Yoga**

*Parlor*

**1-3:30 pm Staff Meeting**

*Conference Room*

## Tuesday, January 23

**11:45 am – 2 pm Crafty Critters**

*E2*

## Wednesday, January 24

**5:30-7 pm Financial Peace University**

*Conference Room*

**5:30 pm Psalm Players Rehearsal**

*Sanctuary*

**6-7:15 pm The Calling for Youth**

*Youth Suite*

**6:30 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal**

*Sanctuary*

**7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

*Sanctuary*

## Thursday, January 25

**6:30-7:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal**

*Fellowship Hall*

## Sunday, January 28

**9:15-10:15 am Combined Worship**

*Sanctuary*

**10:15 Ministry Review and Continental Breakfast**

*Fellowship Hall*

**4-4:50 pm First Kids Music**

*Sanctuary*

**No 11:15 Worship Service**

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# Announcements

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## Dreaming Together in 2018

As our visioning process continues, please plan to participate in the upcoming events:

**Sunday, January 28, 9:15 am Combined Worship & Ministry Review:** We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast (\$5 suggested cost per person) and a ministry review. This will be an opportunity to learn about all the different ministries and to reflect on them. To ask questions like: what in congregational life is working well? What needs improvement? If we were going to drop something, what would it be?

**Saturday, February 3, 9:00 am Visioning Listening Session:** Dr. Chris Gambill will lead us in a time of reflection on our past. This will be an opportunity for you to share what the church means to you and when we have been at our best.

Child care is available for this event – Children’s Minister Yvette Chambers has a full morning of events planned including painting “kindness rocks”, making friendship bracelets, playing Bingo, and playing team building games in the gym. Please RSVP to Yvette by emailing [chambers@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:chambers@fbc-columbia.org).

**Sunday, February 4, 9:15 am Combined Worship & Visioning Listening Session:** We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast and a visioning session led by Dr. Chris Gambill in which we will reflect on the gifts God has given us and how we might use them in unique ways for ministry.

## Ash Wednesday Worship

Lent begins soon – please save the date for our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 6 pm.

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# Worship Notes

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The Call to Worship is from “Great Stories from Genesis: An Eight-Week Series with Artwork” by Victoria Cok. Posted on Reformed Worship. <http://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-2013/great-stories-genesis>.

God of This City by Chris Tomlin (5037070)

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) by Hillsong United (6428767)

Lord I Need You by Matt Maher (5925687)

The Prayer of Confession and the Words of Assurance (inspired by Genesis 15: 1-18) are posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways Archive. <http://www.ucc.org/>

I Have This Hope by Tenth Avenue North

How Great Thou Art (traditional hymn)

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Thank you for worshiping with us today! If you wish to share this worship experience with a neighbor, the service is broadcast live, and the sermon is available on our website within a week.







## 9:15 am Awakening Worship Service

*For those who may prefer a more traditional worship experience, First Baptist Church offers Traditional Worship at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Sanctuary.*

For Children During Worship:

1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

Children (Birth-Kindergarten) can be dropped off in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, prior to worship where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups which dive into various topics (visitors and guests welcomed):

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Discussion Class in the parlor on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library.

NOTE: For today, January 21, Adult Small Groups combine in the Fellowship Hall for the Business Meeting.

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### Church Staff

*Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor † Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor*

*Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions*

*Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident*

*Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry*

*Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist*

*Jess Wolfe, Child Development Center Director*

*Janet Deneke, Admin. Assistant † Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator*

*Bethany James, Nursery Director † Jason Bell, Custodian*