



“**Things I wish
I would have said...**”

about the Pandemic back in March
but I didn't know them yet



Our Worship of God

September 20, 2020

9:15 am

- Outdoor Service -

Prelude

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Mozart's Clarinet Concerto Theme

arr. Faye Lopez

Welcome

Call to Worship (responsive)

From the very beginning, God calls us.

God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose

We come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid

**But God reassures us in many and various ways
through the course of our days**

Even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff

Even if chaos swarms around us

Even if we look around us and wonder where God is

God is with us and sustains us

Together, with the help of God, we will cling to hope

Together, we will work for change

†Opening Hymn 78

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!*

*Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its years away,
They fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!*

†Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading

Colleen Spurlock

Acts 11:27-30

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Litany for Reassurance (responsive)

Based on Psalm 103,
Romans 14, and Matthew 18

God, we come to this day in need of reassurance.

We know we have been at fault.

We know we have been complicit in various ways.

We become discouraged and hopeless.

We become cynical and apathetic.

We need assurance of your unfailing love.

Sometimes, in the mess and busyness of everyday life,

It's hard to remember

That we are loved unconditionally,

That you are merciful and gracious;

That forgiveness is available to all,

That your compassion is ours to share in

We are learning more deeply:

That justice for the oppressed is your business,

That redemption and healing are your business,

And we are invited to join you in your work

Of liberative, forgiving, merciful love.

Your priorities become our priorities.

Reassure us, oh God, in meaningful, tangible ways,

Of your steadfast love toward us.

In the hour of our despair

Buoy us up on waves of peace.

And keep us from the judgement that embitters us;

Instead let us share in your endless supply of mercy.

We ask all this so that, despite our current trials,

We might be heralds of your Kin-dom -

That good and peaceful Promised Land

As it makes its steady progress here on earth. Amen.

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
It is well, it is well,
With my soul, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well, it is well,
With my soul, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*My sin—O, the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin—not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well, it is well,
With my soul, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend:
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well,
With my soul, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Special Music

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Ferguson

Message

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Hymn of Response

God We Wonder Where to Find You
Sung to NETTLETON

*God, we wonder where to find you; should we turn our eyes above?
How can people understand you? Is your love a distant love?
Do our songs rise up to heaven? Does that language still ring true?
In this world of joy and suffering, God, we wonder: Where are you?*

*God, we wonder at our calling; is it only in the church?
We may struggle with tradition; where are you, God, in our search?
We are taught that you are gracious; can we find you in new ways?
Could there be some brand new places where you challenge and amaze?*

*We are grounded in creation—in the water, dirt and sky,
And we find the Spirit's presence as we hear creation's cry.
For we see in life's beginning what is now and always true:
We're at home in what you've given, called to care for earth for you.*

*We are grounded in our neighbors, in our loved ones, in our towns,
And in daily, loving labors, where your signs of grace abound.
Here in Christ we love each other, and we care for the oppressed;
Spirit-filled, with one another, we are grounded! We are blessed!*

*God, we trust that you are with us, dwelling in the here and now.
When we struggle to live fully, your compassion shows us how.
As we work to bring your justice, as we seek your peaceful way,
As we put our faith in practice, may we find you, God, today.*

Life of the Church

†Benediction

Worship Notes

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. Words: Isaac Watts, 1719.
Music: William Croft, 1708.

It is Well with My Soul, Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873. Music: Phillip P. Bliss, 1876.

Litany for Reassurance, (Based on Psalm 103, Romans 14, and Matthew 18), by Fran Pratt used with permission.

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Thank you for worshipping 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.

Week at a Glance

Tuesday, September 22

- 12:00 pm *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* Video Series, Facebook & YouTube
- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

Wednesday, September 23

- 12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol
- 6:00 pm The Calling on the Lawn
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24

- 12:00 pm *Everything Must Change* Online Book Study via Zoom

Sunday, September 27

- 9:15 am Worship Service on the Front Lawn
- 10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study and Small Groups
Online Zoom Churchwide Bible Study
- 10:30 am Student Ministry Group online
- 11:15 am Online Worship Service with Traditional Worship Team
Stream the worship service by clicking "Watch Us Live" from link at the top of our website
- 5:00 pm *Everything Must Change* Book Study on the Front Lawn

Announcements

Visitors and Prayer Requests

If you are visiting with us online, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, let us know you are with us today by texting “guest” to 573-326-9490. If you are in need of prayer, text “prayer” to 573-326-9490 and Brittany, our Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation will connect with you.

Wisdom for Pandemic Living Video Series

Tuesdays on Facebook and YouTube

We are excited to introduce a new video series called *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* which will premiere every Tuesday at noon during our worship series *Things I Wish I Would Have Said about the Pandemic Back in March but I Didn't Know Them Yet*. Living through a pandemic is hard. We haven't done this before, and we don't know how long it's going to go on. At First Baptist, we have a number of helping professionals in our congregation, and each Tuesday we will get the chance to learn a piece of wisdom from them.

Our first video is led by Sydney Ludwig. Sydney is a clinical social worker and a member of our First Baptist community. During her talk, Sydney discusses resilience and offers a practical tool for when we feel overwhelmed. You can watch Sydney's video on our Facebook page or on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/D_7VicSRxsM

Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel and like us on Facebook so you won't miss out on the *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* series.

New Worship Series

Practicing Presence: An Invitation to Prayer

On October 11 we are beginning a worship series entitled *Practicing Presence: An Invitation to Prayer*. At its core, prayer is being in the presence of God. Through this series, we will be talking about and practicing different forms of prayer during online and outdoor worship. Prayer is a reminder to center ourselves in God's love and care. Prayer isn't withdrawing from the problems of the world. Instead, prayer equips us to face the challenges with power from on high.

Prayer Guides and Boxes

As part of the *Practicing Presence* series, we are putting together a prayer box for each First Baptist family. The prayer box includes a booklet of prayers for personal use, a simple kit for making your own prayer beads, a finger labyrinth, and a candle. You may pick up your prayer box October 11 following in person worship or from 4:00-4:30 pm on October 11 by driving through the church parking lot.

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Beginning October 12, the Sanctuary will be open for prayer and personal reflection on Mondays from 9 am-5 pm. One person or family at a time may sign up for a 30-minute time slot by contacting the church office at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

Autumn Changes to Worship Times

Outdoor worship has been a gift giving us a safe way to meet in-person. We want to continue gathering on the front lawn as long as possible but recognize that the weather is already beginning to cool off. To account for this, the Church Council has made the decision to move the Outdoor Worship Service to 11:15 am beginning Sunday, October 11. Hopefully, this will allow us to continue meeting for several more weeks. The Online Worship Service will be recorded and broadcasted at 9:15 am, but you can still watch at 11:15 am as usual.

Fall Book Study - *Everything Must Change* by Brian D. McLaren

The *Everything Must Change* book study has begun! The in-person group will meet on Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm on the front lawn of the church. Please bring a mask and a lawn chair and join us for the discussion. The online group will meet on Thursdays at noon. For the online link, please email Pastor Carol at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org

Student Ministry on Sunday Mornings

Our Student Ministry has also resumed our virtual Sunday morning small group meetings each Sunday at 10:30 am. Zoom links have been sent out to youth and parents. Please contact Michael McEntyre if you need this information (mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org). Youth small group is a great time to check in, share about your week, and be encouraged. Stay tuned for more information about possible group activities for the fall that can combine some fun outdoor activities (a bonfire, visiting some state parks, and a possible game of laser tag in the woods) to help alleviate the confines of the pandemic. As always, we appreciate your prayers for our students and leaders this semester.

Youth Wednesday Nights on the Front Lawn

All of our Middle and High School Students are invited to join us on Wednesday nights in September from 6:00-7:17pm for CARD Games on the front lawn (Carefully crafted, Appropriately precautioned, Reasonably distanced, Distinctly fun games). While we will be outside (unless weather demands an adjustment), we are asking each student to please bring and wear a mask. We had a blast welcoming our new 6th graders this past week and are excited to have the chance to laugh, learn, and see one another again. We hope to see all our students soon.

Financial Assistance for Those Affected by COVID-19

If you have found yourself in need of financial assistance in this disruptive time of a global pandemic, please reach out to any of our pastors (by phone or email) to notify us of your need. Please know that all such requests are confidential. We will get through this together!

