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# Practicing Presence

AN INVITATION  
TO PRAYER

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# *Our Worship of God*

*November 22, 2020*

*11:15 am*

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**Welcome**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

**Prelude**

Beachspring arr. Kevin McChesney  
Noah Hartsfield and Jeff Adams, *bells*  
Colleen Ostercamp, *piano*

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

In deep gratitude, we worship God.

**We recognize God as the source of all goodness.**

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

**love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness, are all of God.**

We are here with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

**Let's show our gratitude for God's grace in song and prayer.**

**Opening Hymn 502**

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!*

*The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.*

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*At this time, we invite you to light a candle at your place of worship as a  
reminder of God's presence with us.*

## **Scripture Reading**

### **James 1:17-18**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Song of Thanksgiving

## Counting Every Blessing

*I was blind now I'm seeing in colour  
I was dead now I'm living forever  
I had failed but You were my Redeemer  
I've been blessed beyond all measure*

*I was lost now I'm found by the Father  
I've been changed from a ruin to treasure  
I've been given a hope and a future  
I've been blessed beyond all measure*

*I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Letting go and trusting  
When I cannot see  
I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Surely every season  
You are good to me*

*Oh You are good to me  
Oh You are good to me*

*You were there in the valley of shadows  
You were there in the depth of my sorrows  
You're my strength my hope for tomorrow  
I've been blessed beyond all measure*

*I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Letting go and trusting  
When I cannot see  
I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Surely every season  
You are good to me*

*Oh You are good to me  
Oh You are good to me*

*Surely Your goodness pursues me  
Surely Your heart is still for me  
I will remember Your mercies  
All my days  
Through every storm and gale*

*I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Letting go and trusting  
When I cannot see  
I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Surely every season  
You are good to me  
I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Letting go and trusting  
When I cannot see  
I am counting every blessing  
Counting every blessing  
Surely every season  
You are good to me*

*Oh You are good to me  
Oh You are good to me*

*For Your goodness I will ever praise You  
Oh You are good to me  
Oh You are good to me*

## Litany of Gratitude (responsive)

Pastor Michael McEntyre

For these gifts and more, we give thanks to God.

**patches of sunlight, kindred spirits, hope for the future,**  
A good night's sleep, creativity, wide open spaces, healing,  
**God's presence from everlasting to everlasting.**

The good kind of tired after a job well done, safe returns,

**strength to walk and not be weary,**  
**grandparents, redbud trees,**  
Rivers, lakes, and ponds, the preciousness of life, kind nods,  
**uncles, silent nights, playgrounds,**  
**smooth stones and seashells,**

Zoom gatherings, bread that is more than bread, faithful friends,

**psalms, hot chocolate, purple pansies, candlelight, teachers,**  
Good neighbors, faith to live into our callings, shooting stars,  
**storm homes, memories, parents, youth who keep us seeking,**

Nativity scenes, sons, courage to risk, peace like a river,

**relationships that deepen through the years,**  
**walks in the rain,**  
Starry skies, good books, and movies and conversations,  
**chili on a cold night,**  
**hymnwriters and poets, vegetable gardens,**

Friends who catch our tears, aunts, ministering together,

**invitations, people who live out the gospel, smiling eyes,**  
Comfort and joy, maps, autumn leaves, holy moments, mentors,  
**Forgiveness, language that is in words and beyond words.**

Rice for the hungry, sitting at the table together, blowing kisses,  
**doctors' and nurses' healing hands, daughters, solitude,**  
Expectancy, overflow of gratitude, wind of God's spirit,  
**babysitters, hummingbirds, caretakers, picnics,**

Birthday parades, finding what was lost, shoulders to lean on,  
**wonders of God's love, resurrection, children's drawings,**  
Adagios and crescendos, those who tug us toward justice,  
**strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,**

Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.  
**for these gifts and more, we give thanks to God.**

**Testimony**

Stephen Hoell

**Sharing Our Gifts**

## Hymn 644

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door.  
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise:  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one,  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone:  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace conferred:  
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

Message

Pastor Carol McEntyre

**Practicing Presence: Gratitude**

## Song of Response

## Goodness of God

*I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days  
I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God*

*All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God*

*I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God*

*All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God*

*Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now*

*I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me*

*All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God  
All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God  
I will sing of the goodness of God*

## **Life of the Church**

### **Benediction**

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# Worship Notes

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*Amazing Grace*, Words: John Newton, 1779. Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell, 1900.

*Counting Every Blessing*, CCLI Song # 7101176 Chris Llewellyn | Gareth Gilkeson

*Litany of Gratitude*, ©1999 Smith & Helwys Publishing. From Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons by Sharlande Sledge.

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*. Sung to BEACH SPRING. ©1961 renewal 1989. The Hymn Society. Words: Robert L. Edwards, 1961.

*Goodness of God*, CCLI Song # 7117726 Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson

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# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, November 22 (today)

3:00- 4:00 pm Drive-Thru Advent Devotional and Family Boxes Pick-up

5:00 pm Christian Mindfulness Zoom

### Session Four (last session)

Title: Clothed in Compassion Topic: compassion for self & others

Practice: lovingkindness/blessing practice

## Monday, November 23

5:00- 6:00 pm Drive-Thru Advent Devotional and Family Boxes Pick-up

## Tuesday, November 24

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

## Wednesday, November 25

\*\*No Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol this week

6:00 pm Youth on the Front Lawn

\*\*No Handbells Rehearsal this week

## Thursday, November 26

\*\*Thanksgiving Holiday – Offices Closed

## Friday, November 27

\*\*Thanksgiving Holiday – Offices Closed

12:15 pm Jesus Calling: Women's Devotional and Prayer Time via Zoom

## Sunday, November 29

10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study and Small Groups

*Online Zoom Churchwide Bible Study*

10:30 am Student Ministry Group online

11:15 Online Worship Service

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# Announcements

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## 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.

## Pledge Drive

You should have received your 2021 commitment card in the mail. On Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 pm we invite you to drive through the church parking lot and drop off your card. It is a pledge drive (Get it. Ha ha!) While you are here, you can also pick up your Advent devotional.

## First Kids Gratitude Café

In November, First Kids is focusing on gratitude. Brittany is hosting Gratitude Café (not as catchy as Blizzards with Brittany, but we're rolling with it). Families can sign-up for a slot and Brittany will deliver Hot Chocolate (or apple cider) and do a gratitude practice with your family while the beverages cool. Email Brittany ([bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org)) for the link to register. In the form there is a place to write down times that will work around your family's school schedule!

## Give to One Great Hour of Sharing

This November, Give to American Baptist Churches -One Great Hour of Sharing to help with ongoing disaster relief. To ensure your donations are correctly recorded, please mail your contributions to the church. Checks should be made out to First Baptist Church with ABC Offering in the memo line. If you wish to give electronically, you may do so by going to the American Baptist Churches USA's website at <http://abc-oghs.org/donate/>. Thank you for your generosity and kindness during these difficult days.

## Drive-Through Advent Devotional Pick-up

Sunday, November 22 from 3-4 pm,  
or Monday, November 23 from 5-6 pm

This year, we are offering an Advent daily devotional, put together by *Sanctified Art*. The devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary from the beginning of Advent, Sunday, November 29, all the way through Epiphany! Each day offers something new: commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, coloring pages, journaling, and Sabbath prompts. The devotional features biblical commentary by contributors, Dr. Marcia Y. Riggs.

Marcia Y. Riggs is an American author, the J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics, and the Director of ThM Program at Columbia Theological Seminary, a womanist theologian, and a recognized authority on the black woman's club movement of the nineteenth century.

You can pick up your personal devotional following the service on Sunday, November 22, in our drive-thru pick-up later that day from 3-4 pm, or in our drive-thru pick-up on Monday, November 23 from 5-6 pm.

## First Kids Faith @ Home Advent Boxes

Before the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, drive-by for a Family Advent Blessing on Sunday, November 22 from 3-4 pm in the First Baptist parking lot. Your family will be given a Faith @ Home Advent Box, containing electric candles to make your own simple advent wreath, some hot chocolate for your own gratitude party, a sticker nativity, and Traci Smith's book *Faithful Families for Advent & Christmas: 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred*. Don't let "100 Ways" scare you! This is not a to-do list to add to your busy lives. It is simply a resource of options for simple, sweet, profound connections and memory-making. You are encouraged to pick a few practices that resonate with your family and repeat them organically as time and space allow. Take some time to set an Advent intention for yourself and your family. How will you focus on hope, peace, love, and joy this Advent? Where will you create holy space in your home and life? What new traditions will 2021 bring?

## VAC Holiday Program

For many years First Baptist has partnered with Voluntary Action Center during the holiday season to help with Christmas presents for those in need. This year we plan to continue that tradition, however, because of the pandemic, VAC's efforts will look a bit different. Beginning November 22, First Baptist will be collecting donations to purchase gift cards for VAC partner families. We will collect funds through December 9 at the church (checks need to be made to First Baptist Church with VAC Holiday Program in the memo line), and then purchase the needed gift cards as instructed by VAC. While we will miss the joy of picking out the perfect toy or gift to be sent in, we are grateful to VAC for continuing this work and look forward to the opportunity to bless those in our community this season.

## Sanctuary Open for Prayer

The Sanctuary is now 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](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org) or phone 573-442-1149.

## Blue Christmas Service - Friday, December 18, 6:30-7:30 pm

In a normal year, Christmas can be a painful time. The anguish of broken relationships, the first Christmas without a loved one or the weariness of ill health can make us feel alone in the midst of celebration. This year, we have the added grief of 240,000 Americans and 1.7 million people worldwide who have died from COVID-19. Due to the Pandemic, we may not celebrate with extended family in the same way. Though the Christmas season is often marked with expressions of excitement and joy, we want to recognize that for many, this season evokes a lot of pain and grieving, particularly this year. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and grief; we need to know and see that we are not alone and hold space for healing and hope. For these reasons, we are offering a special Blue Christmas service on Friday, December 18 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Join us in sharing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledges God's presence is with those who mourn, now and always.

## 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!