

AGAIN & AGAIN GOD MEETS US



Our Worship of God

February 21, 2021

11:15 am

~ First Week of Lent ~

Pre-Service Music

Prelude in E minor

Chopin

Welcome

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Call to Worship (responsive)

One: God meets us in the night—

**All: Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.**

One: God meets us in the light—

**All: Where joy is effervescent,
Where laughter is contagious,
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
And where people gather around the table.**

One: God meets us at the threshold—

**All: At the edge of the water,
At the beginning of the wilderness,
At the start of something new,
On the edge of faith.**

One: And if God meets us in all those places,
Then surely God meets us in between—

All: Staying with us through the wilderness.

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.

Opening Song

You Meet Me Here

*Where can I go from Your presence
Where can I run from Your Spirit
You meet me there
Spirit You meet me there*

*Where can I go from Your presence
Where can I hide from Your Spirit
You find me there
Spirit You find me there*

*From the highest highs to the lowest lows
From the mountain top to the valley below*

*You meet me here Spirit You meet me here
You go before me Your love surrounds me
Changing the atmosphere*

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*You meet me here Spirit You meet me here
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Changing the atmosphere*

*You don't give up even when I do
You don't walk out when I threaten to
You are steady when I can't be still
Your love finds me and it always will*

*You don't give up even when I do
You don't walk out when I threaten to
You are steady when I can't be still
Your love finds me and it always will*

*From the highest highs to the lowest lows
From the mountain top to the valley below
In the darkest night though I try to hide
Even there Your light
Shines bright like the morning*

*You meet me here Spirit You meet me here
Always embracing never rejecting
Your kindness draws me near*

*You meet me here Spirit You meet me here
Always embracing never rejecting
Your kindness draws me near*

You meet me here

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*We invite you to light a candle at your place of worship
as a visual reminder of God's presence with us.*

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Call to Confession

Pastor Michael McEntyre

Again and again, God meets us where we are.
God’s love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand
and easy for us to forget.
Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone.
And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God’s grace
in that holy reminder.
Family of faith, please pray with me.

Prayer of Confession

One: God who meets us where we are—
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."**

One: We know that you are with us too—
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—
But so often we act like we are alone.

**All: Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
We hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

One: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you
While living like you are nowhere to be found?

**All: Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath,
in every step, you are there.**

One: You are the God who meets us where we are.

**All: Before and behind, above and below, within and around.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:
God is here. God sees you. God knows you.
God meets you at the edge of every new beginning, And God calls you
beloved.

**All: We are washed by the water.
We are called beloved.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Sharing Our Gifts

Hymn 200

Lord Who Throughout These 40 Days

*Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins
And close by You to stay.*

*As You with Satan did contend
And did the victory win,
O give us strength in You to fight,
In You to conquer sin.*

*As You did hunger and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and so to live
By Your most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence,
And through Your Passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that through this life
Of doubts and hope and pain,
An Easter of unending joy
We may at last attain!*

Message

Again and Again God Meets Us

Carol McEntyre

Song of Response

Build My Life

*Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You*

*Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You
We live for You*

*Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
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Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
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Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken*

*I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
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*Holy there is no one like You
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And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

Life of the Church

Benediction

As you leave this hour,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved,
and Love itself, Go with courage,
go with heart, go in peace.
Amen.

Worship Notes

You Meet Me Here, CCLI Song # 7127602 Anabeth Morgan | Casey Corum | Jason Dill | John Haas | Sam Crabtree

Lord Who Throughout These 40 Days, Words: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873, alt. Music: American folk melody, adapt.; harm, Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938.

Build My Life CCLI Song # 7070345, Brett Younker | Karl Martin | Kirby Kaple | Matt Redman | Pat Barrett

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 21

10:00 am Student Ministry Group online

10:00 am Online Winter Bible Study with Dr. Hulitt Gloer

11:15 am Online Worship Service, New Lenten Sermon Series, *Again & Again*

Tuesday, February 23

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

7:00 pm Visio Divina Bible Study via Zoom with Pastor Brittany

Wednesday, February 24

12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

7:45 pm Chancel Choir Zoom

Friday, February 26

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

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.

Tuesday Evening Visio Divina Bible Study -Begins February 23

Visio Divina, Latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and non-secular images. During Lent, Pastor Brittany will be leading a Visio Divina Bible Study via Zoom at 7 pm. The meeting will be a blend of visual meditation with group discussion and bible study.

CBF Offering for Global Missions

By giving to the CBF Offering for Global Missions this month, you will have the opportunity to support the work of Cooperative Baptist Field Personnel around the world, like our very own Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen. Your support of the Offering for Global Missions will share the Gospel message and provide tangible gifts of God’s grace and mercy. 100% of your gifts to the Offering goes to funding the ministry of field personnel. You can send in your offering by check (made out to First Baptist Church with CBF missions in the memo line) or you can choose the missions offering link on our website to give electronically. Thank you for your generosity.

Lenten Series

Our Lenten Theme this year is *Again & Again*. In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

Stations of the Cross Experience- March 1-17

Stations of the Cross is an in-person experience, which will be set up in the Sanctuary open March 1-17. The experience honors the ancient story of Jesus' death while recognizing the ways this narrative repeats itself again and again throughout the past and present. It provides multi-sensory ways to engage, confess, and lament, creating a profound and prophetic worship experience. Designed by Rev. T. Denise Anderson, the service features her original artwork and artist statement, *Pietà: "Woman, Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother"*—a sermon project exploring the story of Mamie Till-Mobley (the mother of Emmett Till) and the grief of Mary, mother of Jesus, beholding her son on the cross. You can sign up for a time by going to our website.

Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice

We are thrilled to announce First Baptist has been selected as one of the 25 churches across 18 states chosen for the Alliance of Baptists' THRIVE for Racial Justice cohort! The Alliance received a Lilly Endowment grant to form a cohort of churches who will participate in a five-year project dedicated to the work of racial justice. Both the leaders of the Alliance and the scholars partnering with them agree that the definition of a thriving church cannot be assessed solely in terms of larger attendance or growing budgets. Rather, thriving congregations recognize their changing social and cultural contexts, exhibit clarity of values and mission, and cultivate Christian practices in line with those values as they address and seek to overcome racial injustice. We believe being part of the THRIVE for Racial Justice cohort will provide us with accountability and structure for our racial justice work as a church. To help lead our efforts, we are reforming our Racial Justice Team. The Racial Justice Team will hold its first organizational Zoom meeting Sunday, March 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose and function of this group is to grow in our individual and collective understandings, and to advocate for racial justice in partnership with an alliance of 24 other Thriving Baptist Church congregations who will be taking this journey with us. If you think you might like to become a part of this team or have any questions, please email Julie Walker at jbethwalker58@gmail.com.

Special Zoom at Noon with Brian Kaylor

On Wednesday, March 24, Brian Kaylor will be our special guest for Zoom at Noon. Last August, Brian who is editor & president of Word&Way, associate director of Churchnet, and author of four books on religion, politics, and communication, joined us for a conversation about Christian Nationalism. As a reminder, Christian Nationalism is an ideology, which seeks to merge Christian and American identities and in doing so, distorts both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. On January 6, when the assault on the capitol happened our conversation with Brian felt prophetic. Join us for Zoom at Noon as we discuss the assault on the Capitol and how it intersects with the disturbing movement known as Christian Nationalism.