

AGAIN & AGAIN GOD LOVES FIRST



Our Worship of God

March 14, 2021

11:15 am

~ Fourth Week of Lent ~

Preservice Music

There is a Balm in Gilead
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. Hailstork

Welcome

Pastor Michael McEntyre

Call to Worship (responsive)

One: Before we were born,

All: Before we took our first breath,

One: Before the week started,

All: Before the year started,

One: Before we said, "I love you,"

All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"

One: Before we figured out who we really are,

All: Before we figured out who we want to be,

One: Before it all—

All: God loved us.

One: Unconditionally and freely,

All: Fully and honestly—

One: God loved us.

All: Again and again, this is where our story begins.

One: Let us worship God!

Opening Song

Reckless Love

*Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me*

*(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless*

*When I was far from you Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me*

*(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God*

*There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me*

*There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me*

*(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God*

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.*

Prayer for Illumination

Jon Ludwig, *Pastoral Care Intern*

God of the here and now—
We have heard the words,
“For God so loved the world
That he gave his only son,”
Time and time again.
We have read them on billboards,
Heard them in worship,
And seen them on signs.
And yet we know,
There is a difference between
Hearing those words
In passing
And truly, deeply listening.
We long to listen, God.
We long to hear your truth.
We long to know your love.
Open our hearts and minds.
We are listening.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Yvette Chambers

John 3:1-5, 14-18

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Hymn 72

To God Be the Glory

*To God be the glory, great things he hath done,
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

*Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

Children's Moment

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Sharing of Our Gifts

Song of Praise

I am Loved

*Just as I am
You welcome me
With open arms
How can this be*

*My guilt is undone
My past is untethered
I leave it behind
And run to my Comfort*

*There is no disappointment in Your eyes
There is no shame there is only pride
I am loved
Oh God, I'm loved by You*

*So unreserved
Your heart for me
My fear is gone
I am set free*

*There's nothing to hide
There's nothing to measure*

*'Cause I am Your child
And that's all that matters*

*There is no disappointment in Your eyes
There is no shame there is only pride
I am loved
Oh God, I'm loved by You*

*There is no distance in Your embrace
Over and over again You say
I am loved
Oh God I'm loved by You
I am loved
Oh God, I'm loved by You*

*You are changing ev'rything
You are changing ev'rything
I believe it
I receive it
You are changing ev'rything
You are changing ev'rything
You are changing ev'rything
I believe it
I receive it
You are changing ev'rything*

*There is no disappointment in Your eyes
There is no shame there is only pride
I am loved
Oh God I'm loved by You*

*There is no distance in Your embrace
Over and over again You say
I am loved
Oh God I'm loved by You
I am loved
Oh God I'm loved by You*

Message

Again and Again, God Loves First

Carol McEntyre

Hymn of Response 498

I Love to Tell the Story

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own Holy Word.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

Life of the Church

Benediction (Unison)

We believe God is love—
Unconditional, constant love.
We believe this love exists for all,
Choosing each and every one of us,
Day after day,
Again and again and again.
We believe that God's love is like a river.
Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea;
God's love cannot help but move toward us.
We are swimming in it.
We believe that God loved first.
We believe that God breathed life into dust.
We believe that God said, "This is good,"
And because we believe that God loved first,
We strive to build lives that reflect God's love.
May we begin again here. Amen.

Postlude

There is a Redeemer
Becki Forsee Jones & Colleen Ostercamp, *piano duet*

arr. Keveren

Worship Notes

Reckless Love, CCLI Song # 7089641, Caleb Culver | Cory Asbury | Ran Jackson

To God Be the Glory, Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt. Music: William H. Doane, 1875.

I am Loved, CCLI Song # 7127174, Jason Ingram | Jonathan Smith | Mack Brock

I Love to Tell the Story, Words: A. Catherine Hankey, 1866. Music: William G. Fischer, 1869.

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 14

10:00 am Student Ministry Group online
10:00 am Sunday Morning Small Groups/Bible Study
11:15 am Online Worship Service
5:30 pm Racial Justice Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, March 16

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call
7:00 pm Visio Divina Bible Study via Zoom with Pastor Brittany

Wednesday, March 17

12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol
6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
7:45 pm Chancel Choir Zoom

Friday, March 19

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

Sunday, March 21

10:00 am Student Ministry Group online
10:00 am Sunday Morning Small Groups/Bible Study
11:15 am Online Worship Service

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

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.

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.

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.

CBF Heartland Webinar - Advocating for Rural Community Development- Tuesday, March 23 at 3 pm

On March 23 our First Baptist congregation is invited to join leaders from Together for Hope, CBF's rural development coalition, to discuss ways churches can help alleviate poverty in the Heartland.

Jason Coker, President of Together for Hope, and L. Nicole Stringfellow, Regional Vice President - Delta, will lead participants through engaging exercises and discussions. For 20 years, Together for Hope has helped to change thinking about poverty. First Baptist folks will know their work from our partnership with the Lakota reservation in Bridger, SD. Bridger was part of Together for Hope's initial focus in changing the lives of those in poverty in our country. As a result of their work, our church was able to join the partnership of CBF churches whose lives have been enriched by our relationship with the people of Bridger. Now, in the wake of the pandemic, Together for Hope's expertise is more vital for our churches than it has ever been.

Our First Baptist family is invited to join in this important discussion. You can register at www.cbfheartland.org/advocacy. Attendees will receive a free copy of *The Mission of Advocacy: A Toolkit for Congregations*

Downtown Palm Sunday Service -March 28, 9:00 am

Sunday, March 28 is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. We are thrilled to announce the Ecumenical Downtown Palm Sunday Service will take place this year at 9:00 am at the Boone County Courthouse Amphitheater. In years past, we have gathered on Broadway, however the pastors of the participating congregations chose to change the location to allow the crowd to have more room to social distance. We will have palms and worship bulletins available in the First Baptist parking lot. For the Palm Sunday Gathering, we ask you to wear your mask (even if you are fully vaccinated), maintain physical distance (6'), and avoid physical contact such as handshakes, fist bumps, and elbow taps.

Good Friday - April 2 at 6:00 pm On-lawn

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us for a service of remembrance on the front lawn of the church at 6:00 pm. Please bring your lawn chair and wear your mask.

The Calling Resumes April 7

We are excited to announce that our Student Ministry plans to start back with our on-lawn Wednesday night gatherings for the Calling on April 7 from 6:00-7:15pm. There will be food and fun galore as we come together IN-PERSON to share life and faith in the front yard. We hope all our students will mark their calendars and make plans to join us on April 7.

Just like last fall, we are asking that students wear masks to our gatherings, and we will continue to practice social distancing when possible during our time together. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Two Worship Service Options Beginning April 4

Online at 9:15 am, On-lawn at 11:15 am

We are excited to announce that beginning Easter Sunday, April 4, at 11:15 am, First Baptist will begin hosting in-person worship services on the front lawn of the church building again! We will also continue to offer online worship, which will be webcast at 9:15 am. For Easter, both online and on-lawn worship services will have musical leadership from the Awakening Praise Band and the Traditional Worship Team. The Sunday following Easter, we will begin rotating the music leadership of the services every few weeks to allow for a variety of musical styles to be experienced in-person on the lawn.

Throughout the pandemic, the Church Council has prioritized the safety and well-being of our congregation, our church staff, and our community. We know you are longing to resume worship inside our building and with the vaccine rolling out and Columbia's case numbers falling, we hope that day is coming soon, but we want to remain vigilant in our efforts to protect people and will continue to take it slow. Returning to on-lawn worship is currently the safest option. To set us up for success, we must all continue to wear our masks, maintain social distancing, and remain home when feeling unwell.

Afternoon of Lawn Games

Sunday, April 25 from 2-4 pm

On Sunday, April 25 from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm we will gather on the front lawn of the church building for an afternoon of fun and games! With the weather warming up, people are longing for safe, enjoyable ways to gather. We will play some lawn games like ladder ball, volleyball, corn hole toss, and other such amusements.

Please bring a lawn chair and wear your mask. Remember, no handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps, or any form of physical touching, but laughter, conversation, and fun are encouraged.