

AGAIN & AGAIN WE ARE REFORMED



Our Worship of God

March 21, 2021

11:15 am

~ Fifth Week of Lent ~

Preservice Music

What Does the Lord Require
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

Burkhardt

Welcome

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Call to Worship (responsive)

One: Every week is a new week,
Another chance to say:

All: “Here I am. Work through me.”

One: Every day is a new day,
Another chance to say:

All: “Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow.”

One: Every hour is a new hour,
Another chance to say,

All: “Again and again, make me new.”

One: We do not come to this place to stay the same.

All: We come to this hour to be changed.

One: So let us worship our holy God,
Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow,
and even now is creating something new.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Opening Song

Indescribable

*From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creation's revealing Your majesty
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming*

*Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
All powerful untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God*

*Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom*

*Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
All powerful untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God
Interlude
You are amazing God*

*Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
All powerful untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God*

*Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
Incomparable unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God
You are amazing 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.*

Children's Message

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Call to Confession

In the gospel of John, a group of Greek people approach the disciples and say, "We would like to see Jesus."

It's a brief, beautiful moment that the text doesn't spend a lot of time on,
And yet, it always catches my eye.

It catches my eye, because the phrase, "I want to see Jesus,"
Feels like it should be my constant prayer.

Help me see Jesus.

I'd like to see Jesus. Bring me closer to Jesus.

In the prayer of confession, we take a moment
to recognize how much space exists
between us and those words,

Trusting that even when we forget to seek out God,
God is seeking us out.

So join me in the prayer of confession today
as we take one step closer to the Divine . . .

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God,
We want to see you.
We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus;
But not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written
on our hearts.

Why do we feel so far away from that at times?
What went wrong?
Where did we lose our way?
Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts?
We would be so grateful.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness (responsive)

One: Friends, despite our wonderings,
Despite our distractions,
Despite wrong turns time and time again,
We are known and loved by God.
Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,
will never stop waving us home.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
**All: Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.
Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.
Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.**

One: Today is a new day.
**All: Again and again, we are forgiven;
Again and again, we are reformed.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

Sharing Our Gifts

Song of Praise

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

*You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand*

*And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine*

*Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now*

*And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine*

Oh and You are mine oh

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour*

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander*

*And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour*

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour*

*Yeah yeah yeah yeah
Oh Jesus yeah my God
I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine*

Message

Again and Again, We Are Reformed

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Hymn of Response

We Look to You, O Jesus
Sung to LANCASHIRE

*We look to you, O Jesus — in faith, our Pioneer —
For you have gone before us and brought your people here.
You showed us all God's kingdom, you gave us work to do;
In death you went before us; for life, we turn to you.*

*Through times of strife and anguish, through times of joy and grace,
Through conflicts with our culture, you've brought us to this place;
And still your world is changing, and still we seek to be
A church reformed, reforming in faithful ministry.*

*Perfecter of the faith, Lord, we look to you each day;
We work for peace and justice, we worship, learn and pray —
And witnesses surround us, a host of saints above,
As we continue sharing the joy of your great love.*

Life of the Church

Benediction

As you go
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

☞ **A rose is placed in the sanctuary in honor of** ☞
Sean and Marcy Douglas'
new baby boy, Zane James Douglas.

Indescribable, CCLI Song # 4403076, Jesse Reeves | Laura Story

In the Bulb There Is a Flower, ©1986 Hope Publishing Company. Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1986.

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail), CCLI Song # 6428767, Joel Houston | Matt Crocker | Salomon Lighthelm

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Week at a Glance

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

Tuesday, March 23

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call
- 3:00 pm CBF Heartland Webinar - Advocating for Rural Community Development
- 7:00 pm Visio Divina Bible Study via Zoom with Pastor Brittany

Wednesday, March 24

- 12:00 pm Special Zoom at Noon with Brian Kaylor
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 7:45 pm Chancel Choir Zoom

Friday, March 26

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

Sunday, March 28

- 9:00 am Downtown Palm Sunday Service
- 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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

First Kids Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3 from 10 am - Noon

First Kids is delighted to host our Easter Egg hunt again this year on the First Baptist Front Lawn from 10am - 12pm. We are working diligently to implement best practices for COVID and ask that all families RSVP to Pastor Brittany as soon as possible by email to bnull@fbccolumbia.org. Egg Hunts will take place in smaller groups and other low-touch activities will be available while families are waiting for their group to hunt eggs. We ask that all participants 2 years old and up wear a mask to the best of their ability, regardless of vaccination status. We look forward to some safe Easter fun with our families!