

Our Worship of God

October 31, 2021

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Welcome

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Becki Forsee-Jones, *piano*
Colleen Ostercamp, *flute*

arr. Winkler

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Family of faith, what is instructed of us?

**To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

†Opening Hymn 34 (verses 1-3)

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Child Dedication

Micah Ryan Hartsfield, born February 28, 2020
child of Abby and Noah Hartsfield

The Charge to the Parents

We come today to present Micah to the church and to dedicate him to God. Abby and Noah, in presenting your child for this holy purpose, do you promise, in dependence upon God's grace and with the help of the church, to teach him the gifts of the Christian faith, and by prayer, word, and example to bring him up in the nurture, love, and instruction of Jesus Christ? Do you promise to uphold him as he learns to live in and embrace the mystery and beauty of life?

We affirm that our child is made in the image of God and is a child of God by creation. We make these promises to him this day with God's help.

The Charge to the Congregation

Family of faith, as Noah's and Abby's church, do you promise your love, care, and example to support and strengthen this family in keeping their promises?

We acknowledge God's abounding love already at work in Abby and Noah and pledge ourselves in covenant with God and their family to nurture them into the fullness of life. We covenant to surround Micah with God's love for the strengthening of their life together; to be for him a family in Christ whose love for him cannot be broken. We accept Micah into our loving care for shared responsibility in the growth toward fullness of life in Christ. May we tell him the good news of Christ that he may know himself loved of God and freely give of himself in love to others.

†Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail

1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess;

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
 and let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.

With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn;
 Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease;

let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.
 be Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours His ho - ly peace.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Litany for the Greatest Commandment

God, we are very busy here trying to figure out how to be good,

How to follow the rules,

How to be acceptable and avoid pain,

And how to get ahead in the world.

We had hoped to get credit for all our efforts

And be deemed successful in our struggle against ourselves.

But. Like so many to whom the Christ spoke while he was on the earth,

We are very surprised to hear what he holds most dear:

Love God with your whole self;

Love your neighbor and yourself.

To hear him talk, we might think that Love

is the primary force in the universe,

As important as water, as breath, as soil;

Certainly more important than codes of behavior,

More elemental than laws, rules, and beliefs.

What a relief!

And what a challenge.

When we release paradigms of shame, violence, and hierarchy,

Love catches us.

When we let go of societal ideas of success and status,

Love elevates us.

When we give up the concerns of ego,

Love enlightens us.

We know we are near to God's Kin-dom

When we let Love carry us.

When Love is our polestar.

When Love is the ground of our being.

Source of all Love, creativity, and goodness,

Help us to take Christ at his word,

And build our lives on the unshakeable foundation of Love

That will transform all things, if we let it. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Kris Lane

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Sharing of Our Gifts

†Hymn 708

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Message

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

†Hymn

Sing a New World into Being

Haas

Sung to NETTLETON

Sing a new world into being.

Sound a bold and hopeful theme.

Find a tune for silent yearnings.

Lend your voice and dare to dream:

dream a church where all who worship

find their lives and loves belong.

Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being

where each gender, class, and race

brings its rainbow gifts and colors

to God's limitless embrace;

where the lines that once divided

form instead the ties that bind.

Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being

where the homeless find a home,

where no children ever hunger

but are filled in God's shalom;

where all people work for justice,

where all hate and vengeance cease.

Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being.

Join the ancient prophets' cry

for a time of health and plenty

when all tears have been wiped dry;

when compassion flows like waters,

pouring balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

Life of the Church

Blessing for Sabbatical (responsive)

On the seventh day God rested and celebrated all of creation. God surveyed all that God had made and said, "It is good."

Pastor Michael, we work together in ministry here at First Baptist and have much to celebrate. We celebrate your faithfulness, encouragement, and leadership in our work together as God's people in this place. Of this ministry together we say with confidence, "It is good."

We send you now on this Sabbatical journey confident that God will bless your every step, refresh your spirit, renew your mind, strengthen your body, and return you to us empowered for our continued task of ministry in Columbia, and in the world.

We will miss you, even as we faithfully carry out with joy and hope the ministry to which we are called. As you attend to your Sabbatical, please know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you, that we support you in every way, and that we look forward with joy to your return.

I, too, look forward to that day when I will return and share in our ministry together. I will miss you as well, and I will pray for you whenever you come to mind. Thank you for creating this opportunity for a time of Sabbath rest in my ministry.

Go, now, with our blessing, and with the blessing of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

†Benediction

†Postlude

Sing Praise to the Lord
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. Haan

Worship Notes

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart, Words: Edward H. Plumptre, 1865, alt. Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1883.

Where Charity and Love Prevail, ©1960 World Library Publications. Harm. ©2010 Celebrating Grace, Inc. Words: Latin hymn, 9th cent; para. Omer Westendorf, 1960. Music: Freeman Lewis's Beauties of Harmony, 1828; harm. Shelby Trapp, 2007.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds, Words: John Fawcett, 1782, alt. Music: Johann G. Nægeli, 1828; arr Lowell Mason, 1845.

Litany for the Greatest Commandment by Fran Pratt

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 31

9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour

– Adult, Youth small groups & First Kids Sunday School

11:15 am Traditional Worship in the sanctuary and streamed online

Tuesday, November 2

1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room and via Zoom

Wednesday, November 3

6:00 pm The Calling in the Student Ministry Suite

6:30 pm Chancel Bells

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 4

10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom

Sunday, November 7 – All Saints' Sunday

9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour

– Adult, Youth small groups & First Kids Sunday School

11:15 am Traditional Worship in the sanctuary and streamed online

2:00 pm Fall Fun Fest & Trunk-or-Treat at Midway Golf and Games

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, you can fill out a visitor card at fbc-columbia.org/guest or use this QR code.



First Baptist Ski Trip Interest Meeting- Sunday, October 31

Sunday, October 31, following both services, we will have a brief (5-10 minute) meeting at the back of the worship areas to discuss plans for a church-wide ski trip to Winter Park, Colorado over Spring Break (March 27- Apr 1). If you or your family are interested, please make plans to attend. If you cannot be there but are interested, please email Michael McEntyre (mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org).

Fall Fun Fest & Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, November 7, 2:00-6:00 pm

We are excited to gather at Midway Golf and Games for our annual Fall Fun Fest. This year, in addition to our traditional activities like food and trunk-or-treat, we will also have fun activities for our community. First Baptist will be hosting an hour of Laser Tag and Archery Tag and First Kids is sponsoring putt-putt for any family who wishes to play. Dinner includes a burger, chips, and a frozen treat. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00. Whether you plan to play games or simply hang out in the picnic area and chat, we hope you will join us for fellowship and fun!

Combined Worship - Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 am

Combined Worship at First Baptist is always a joyous time! The church family gets to come together to praise God and enjoy the musical gifts of both our Awakening and Traditional worship teams. Our next Combined Worship Service will take place on Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary. Pastor Carol will be preaching, but we have a number of special guests. Paul Baxley, the Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will be with us for Combined Worship. He is coming to do a site visit with Pastor Brittany McDonald Null who has been taking part in CBF's Fellows Program. A ministry designed to support first-call ministers.

In addition, we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of CBF Field Personnel Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen. They will join us for worship virtually. Keith and Mary were members of First Baptist before they became field personnel ministering among the Roma people in the Netherlands 25 years ago. We serve as an encourager church for Keith and Mary, providing both financial and emotional support for their ministry. We hope you will join us for Combined Worship! Small Groups will take place as usual at 10:15. There will be no 9:15 worship.

Following worship, we will remain in the sanctuary for a brief business meeting to vote on the recommendations from the Stepping Toward 200 Team, which were presented at the October business meeting.

First Baptist Book Club - November 9 at 6:00 pm

First Baptist Book Club is excited to announce its next read, *A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditations for Renewal* edited by Sarah Bessey. You can buy your own copy from most major retailers and then join the conversation on November 9 at 6 pm. Book Club will meet in the conference room and also via zoom. Email Pastor Brittany McDonald Null to join.

THRIVE for Racial Justice Survey

Everyone in the First Baptist Family is encouraged to take part in the THRIVE for racial justice online survey. You can find the link on our webpage by clicking the survey rotator on the home page, or use this QR Code.



Through a grant sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists, First Baptist has made a 5-year commitment to participate in a cohort of 27 churches dedicated to the work of racial justice and equity. As part of this process, the Alliance is conducting this survey to assist in understanding racial realities and dynamics within the Alliance, as well as in our congregation. We are seeking to create a beloved, diverse, and equitable community here on earth, as it is in heaven. This understanding will equip us to affirm our strengths, address our weaknesses, and inform the action steps necessary for progress in overcoming barriers to racial justice and unity.

Advent Worship Series - *Housing the Holy*

Begins Sunday, November 28

Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas begins on Sunday, November 28. This year our theme is *Housing the Holy*. Advent invites us to remember that just as the star of Bethlehem shown over the stable, the Light of Christ is shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others. Throughout the series, we will study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.



First Baptist Church

columbia, mo

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor

Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions, and Administration

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation

Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director, Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist

Amy Johns, Music Director-Traditional Worship

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant, Bethany James, Nursery Director

Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator, Michael Ide, Custodian