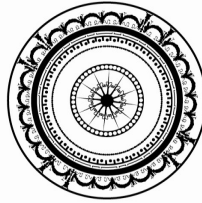


First Baptist Church on Fifth



The Worship of God

November 19, 2017

10:30 am

Invitation to Worship Emily Hull McGee

Prelude: *Now thank We All Our God* arr. M. Coulter

Amy Turner and David Williamson, Piano

Call to Worship Amy McClure

Leader: O give thanks to God, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.

**People: Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love,
for God's wonderful works to humankind.**

Leader: For God satisfies the thirsty,
and fills the hungry with good things.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: The earth has yielded its produce;
God, our God, has blessed us.

**People: Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God's faithful love endures forever.**

*Hymn 371: *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET

*Passing of the Peace Amy McClure

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem: *It Is Good*..... D. Lantz

Sanctuary Choir

It is good to give thanks to the God of creation who dwells in the heavens above. In His presence we stand with the great congregation to sing of His goodness and love. It is good to give thanks for the world He has fashioned, the sun and the moon to give light. He determined the number of stars, and He named them; He rules both the day and the night. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, singing praise to His glorious name. It is good to remember His love and His faithfulness, ever the same. It is good to give thanks and forever exalt Him, so great is His power and might. And His pleasure is found in His children who fear Him. Our praise is to Him a delight. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, singing praise to His glorious name. It is good to remember His love and His faithfulness, ever the same!

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Meredith Smith

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30 Chris Smith

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession David Williamson

Leader: God of grace,
you have called us to give ourselves completely to you.
Yet, we often hold back part for worldly pursuits.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: You have given us the gift of time.
You give us time to serve, time to learn, time to grow, time to share.
Yet, we spend our time serving self.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: You provide us with opportunity to serve in numerous ways
using the talents and abilities we have been given.
Yet, we tend to hide our gifts, to bury our talents.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: You have provided even the least among us
with more financial resources than most of the world.
We resist sharing because of fear for the future.

People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

Leader: You have provided us with a beautiful creation to enjoy.
We take it for granted and abuse this incredible earth.

**People: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.
Gracious and Generous God,
we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant gifts.
In gratitude and thanksgiving we offer you our very lives.**

Assurance of Forgiveness David Williamson

Leader: God offers mercy freely and abundantly.
Let us give thanks and live our lives in gratitude,
for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 488: *Come, All Christians, Be Committed*..... BEACH SPRING

Prayers for the People John Thornton

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sermon: "Essentialism: Making a Choice" Emily Hull McGee

*Hymn of Response: *We, O God, Unite Our Voices* ODE TO JOY

All are invited to respond to God now in quiet or public ways. Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow in the way of Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front of the sanctuary and share your commitment with one of our ministers.

1. We, O God, unite our voices, raise in thankful harmony.
You, unchanging, safe have brought us through the ever-changing sea.
Days of calm and days of conflict, nights of darkness prove Your grace.
Hands beneath us, arms around us, and, above, Your shining face.
2. Seeing then the task before us, bind our hearts and hands as one.
May our labor be in union, our resolve and Yours be one.
With one spirit let us labor toward the bright horizon far.
In the midst of tempest peril be Your cross our guiding star.
3. Not our choice the wind's direction, unforeseen the calm or gale.
Your great ocean swells before us, and our ship seems small and frail.
Fierce and gleaming is Your mystery, drawing us to shores unknown;
Lead us on with hope and courage till Your harbor is our home.

*Offertory Prayer John Hanes
 As Is Our Custom: A Covenant of Rhythm and Resources Emily Hull McGee
 Giving of Tithes and Offerings
 Choral Offertory: *How Excellent Thy Name* G.F. Handel

Sanctuary Choir

How excellent Thy name, O Lord,
 In all the world is known!
 Above all heavens, O King adored,
 How hast Thou set Thy glorious throne.

Opportunities for Ministry David Williamson

*Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God all creatures here below,
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Benediction Emily Hull McGee

Postlude

**Those who are able will please stand.*

THE FLOWERS

The sanctuary flowers today are given by Frances Dunn in honor of our organist, Jake Hill, in celebration of his birthday on November 18, and in appreciation for his musical talents.

ADVENT AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ON FIFTH

Worship Opportunities

Wednesday, November 29 | 6:15 p.m.

Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing and Hope

Sunday, December 3 | 10:30 a.m.

“The Canticles of Christmas”
 Hanging of the Green

Music led by First Baptist choirs and instrumentalists of all ages with guest singers Downtown Sound

Sunday, December 10 | 10:30 a.m.

“The Angels’ Song: *Gloria*”

Music led by the Sanctuary Choir and Ardmores Brass

Sunday, December 17 | 10:30 a.m.

“Mary’s Song: *Magnificat*”

Music led by the Sanctuary Choir and Helen Rifas, harp

Sunday, December 24 | 10:30 a.m.

“Zechariah’s Song: *Benedictus*; Simeon’s Song: *Nunc Dimittis*”
 Music led by the Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 24 | 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
 Music led by the Sanctuary Choir

Churchwide Opportunities

Christmas Through the Arts

Wednesday, December 6 | 6:15 pm

We will use film, music and visual art to celebrate the season!

Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 13 | 6:15 pm

We will depart from church following our fellowship meal to visit our homebound members and share the joy of the season through song. All ages welcome!

Opportunities for Children and Youth

Sunday, December 3 | 11:30 am following worship

Children and Prayer Partners Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 10 | 3 pm

Mochas with Mac — for all school age children at the Starbucks on Harvey Street

Saturday, December 2 | 5:30 pm

Youth Progressive Dinner
 RSVP to Kim Towles by November 25

PASTORAL STAFF

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Rev. David Williamson
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SUNDAY, November 19

8:00 am Deacons' Meeting (Kelly Auditorium)
9:15 am Bible Study
10:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:45 am College Students Lunch (Offsite)
2:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal (Kelly Auditorium)
5:30 pm Churchwide Thanksgiving Pot-luck (Fellowship Hall)

TUESDAY, November 21

7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (Kelly Auditorium)

WEDNESDAY, November 22

No Fellowship Meal or Evening Activities

THURSDAY, November 23

Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Offices and Children's Center Closed

FRIDAY, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Offices and Children's Center Closed

SUNDAY, November 26

9:15 am Bible Study
10:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
2:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal (Kelly Auditorium)
5:00 pm Children & Youth to Tanglewood Festival of Lights

SERVING TODAY

Deacons of the WeekJohn Hanes, Anne Rais
Nursery: Babies-OnesJoani Hughes, Gayle Edwards
Nursery: Twos-PreK John Baxley, Bob Edwards

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST

Our Sunday Morning Worship Service is televised live at 10:30am on Cable Channel 1312 and is streamed live from our website at firstonfifth.org. Online giving is available at give.firstonfifth.org.

"AS IS OUR CUSTOM":

A Covenant of Rhythm and Resources for the New Year

As was his custom, Jesus made communal religious practice part of his rhythms of life. As was his custom, he was shaped by the traditions of worship and study, fellowship and formation, serving and giving. And out of that custom flowed ministry that changed the world.

For many of us, faithful giving begins small -- like \$1 a week or even \$100 a month. For others of us, faithful giving challenges us to grow over time -- taking another step in faith of growing our giving, or covenanting to a more steady rhythm of stewardship. But for all of us - individually and congregationally - 2018 holds deep and abiding promise, inviting us into more profound faithfulness than we've yet experienced.

Pledge cards will be distributed to you in worship today (11/19) and next Sunday (11/26). Please prayerfully consider the covenant you and your family will make to God through the ministries of First Baptist Church! We'll have a chance to all respond together in worship next week.

CHURCHWIDE THANKSGIVING POT-LUCK ON NOVEMBER 19

Dust off your casserole dishes and pie plates--it's time for our church-wide Thanksgiving pot-luck dinner! On Sunday night, November 19, at 5:30 p.m., members and friends of all ages will gather for a warm and festive fellowship. The church will provide turkey, gravy, rolls, and drinks; you bring sides and desserts! As Thanksgiving draws near, we will break bread together, giving thanks for all of God's gifts in abundance this year. And together, we'll celebrate the growing vision for our church's hopeful future!

DONATIONS FOR DR TRIP NEEDED

The 15th annual women's trip to the Dominican Republic is in January. There are several ways to assist with this mission, which ministers to the women of Cielo and their families. First, your monetary contributions help provide rice, beans and water cards for 50 families most in need. Your check, payable to First Baptist Church, or cash should be designated for the Women's Mission Trip rice and beans ministry. Also, we are collecting toothpaste, sample size toilet articles (soap, shampoo and lotion) and beanie babies for the medical clinic, and costume jewelry, handbags and cosmetic bags for the staff and women. These can be placed in the Women's Dominican Republic Mission Trip bin outside Fellowship Hall or given to Gayle Edwards. Thank you for your contributions, prayers and support.

CRISIS CONTROL HOLIDAY CARDS

Crisis Control Ministries' seasonal memorial and honor cards are available at the Welcome Center for a tax deductible donation of \$5. Donations from these cards provide funds to support vital services offered by Crisis Control Ministry, and are a great way to remember those special to you.

**A BEAUTIFUL STAR
An Appalachian Nativity
December 22, 7:30pm
Triad Stage, Greensboro**

The Music and Arts Team invites you to attend a performance of Triad Stage's "A Beautiful Star" on Friday evening, December 22 at 7:30pm. Starting with Genesis and going all the way to the Nativity, this musical spins a holiday story with down-home laughter and toe-tappin' music. A block of tickets have been reserved at a group rate of \$20 per ticket. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact David Williamson at dwilliamson@firstonfifth.org.

COLLEGE STUDENT LUNCH

Join minister John Thornton and fellow First on Fifth college students for lunch immediately following worship on November 19. Meet in the back of the sanctuary and walk downtown to grab a bite to eat together!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating the sanctuary again this year with poinsettias to be displayed December 17 and 24. The price of a poinsettia is \$13 and the order deadline is December 4. Please pick up forms at the Welcome Desk or access online.

NATIVITY EXHIBIT

The Arts Ministry will sponsor an exhibit of Nativity sets during the holiday season. This exhibit, featuring a wide variety of Nativity sets curated by Annice Hogsette, will be on display in the Ammons-Lolley Commons beginning December 3.

CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteer camera operators for our Sunday morning worship broadcast. If interested, please contact John Beasley at john-pvs@msn.com, Greg Ryder at Greg.Ryder@wghp.com, or David Williamson at dwilliamson@firstonfifth.org.