

... the blessing is part of the leaving. And, somehow, the leaving is part of the blessing. His departure—and the way he enters into it—is part of Jesus’ final gift to his friends. ... He invites them to enter into a new relationship with him that will no longer depend on his physical presence but will rely instead on trusting in his love and growing into the people and the community that Christ has called them to become. It is time for them to become his body, to continue his transforming work in the world that he has physically left but has not abandoned.

Joyful, sorrowful, bittersweet; planned or unexpected; welcomed or resisted or grieved: no matter how a leave-taking happens, it always brings an invitation, and it makes a space for the Spirit to come.

+ Jan Richardson



Georgiana Houghton, *The Risen Lord*

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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 21, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*

H. Morris

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 47: 1-2, 5-7

David Williamson

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**All: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.**

Leader: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**All: Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

Leader: For God is the king of all the earth;  
let us sing to God a joyful hymn of praise.

\*HYMN 215: *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

DARWALL

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 1:1-11

Steve Loftis

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24:44-53

Lee Loftis

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amy McClure

Leader: Jesus tells us that repentance and forgiveness  
are to be offered in his name.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins to God,  
who assures us of new life  
through the power of Christ's redeeming love.

**People: Living God,  
we confess that our faith is sometimes weak,  
our love for others can be faint,  
our prayers are often timid,  
and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing.  
When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you,  
you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power,  
through the grace of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.**

ANTHEM: *Waitin' for the Mornin'*

P. Choplin

Sanctuary Choir

Waitin' for the mornin; when the sun is gonna rise. O when I'm prayin' on my knees  
and my heart is gripped with agony, I'm waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna  
rise up! I'm waitin' and though the shadows of pain and death try to shroud my soul  
with hopelessness, I'm waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna rise. When my  
joy and strength are almost gone, I'm gonna keep the faith and just hold on, 'cause  
I'm waitin' for the mornin' when the sun is gonna rise up! And when the darkness  
tries to overcome, it won't last forever and will soon be done, so I'm waitin' for the  
mornin' when the sun is gonna rise.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Psalm 30: 5, 11-12

Amy McClure

Leader: Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning  
You, O Lord, have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,  
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

Friends, let us proclaim to the ends of the earth  
the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Those who have been forgiven truly know the peace that Christ promised us.  
Let us share this peace as generously as we have received the same:  
May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace with those near you.)*

**INTERLUDE: *Joyful Dance***

**M. Tucker**

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Zack Jackson**

**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: *The Resurrection Way of Witness***

**Emily Hull McGee**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 581: *I Love to Tell the Story***

**HANKEY**

*God calls all to respond! Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front and share your commitment with one of our ministers.*

**\*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE**

**Kim Wilkinson**

*The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship. At the conclusion of the worship service you will find offering plates at the exit doors for those who would like to make a financial contribution to support the ministries of First Baptist Church. If you would like to give online, you will find additional information in this worship guide and at our website, [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org).*

**THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Emily Hull McGee**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God all creatures here below!  
O praise God! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Emily Hull McGee**

**POSTLUDE: *Water Music, III. Hornpipe***

**G.F. Handel**

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

## **The Resurrection Way**

*Eastertide at First on Fifth*

As our year “On the Way” draws to a close, we’ll spend our Eastertide together talking about what it means to live “the resurrection way” of Jesus. Join us!

May 28 | Pentecost Sunday | Acts 2:1-21  
*The Resurrection Way of Us*

June 4 | Matthew 28:16-20  
*The Resurrection Way Ahead*

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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### **SERVING TODAY**

Deacon of the Week: Walt Wiley and Kim Wilkinson  
Children & Families Greeter: Kim Wilkinson  
Streaming and Sound Team: Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Ash Henley

### **IF YOU ARE NEW, WELCOME!**

If you are visiting with us today for the first time, we welcome you! Please fill out a Connection Card located in the back of the pews, and give it to a minister or drop into the offering plate after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply with our church. If you’re visiting with young children, we welcome them in whatever way is best for your family! Creative resources for our little ones guide their experience of worship in the Sanctuary, and worship care for infants through pre-K is available in the nursery on the first floor. Masking is optional in the Sanctuary. The balcony continues to be reserved for those preferring an even greater distance. Extra masks and hand sanitizer are available at all three entrances to the sanctuary. We’re glad you’re here!

### **HOW WE SUSTAIN MINISTRY THROUGH FBC**

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today to God’s work of Love through First on Fifth, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates upon your exit from the room, or by scanning the QR code to give online. Because you will need to enter your personal financial information when registering online, we encourage you to set up your account on a secure network at home before using the app for the first time.



501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org)  
**BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.**



FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **May 21 | Congregational Conversation**

The final in our trilogy of lunch conversations is today! Sunday, May 21 on Funding: Resources of Money. Please RSVP in the newsletter for lunch and the conversation. Thank you for participating in these important discussions in the life of our church!

### **May 31 | Special Wednesday Night Service 6PM**

*Forever Beloved: A time of worship for all the complicated feelings Mother's and Father's Day evoke.*

For so many, Mother's Day and Father's Day are moments in the year that make the day-to-day realities of life all the more pronounced. Couples living with infertility or learning how to live after the loss of a child or parent or within their ongoing illness or disability find these days full of fresh grief and reminders of their loss. People who have complicated relationships or have experienced trauma with either mother, father, or child feel the sting of unmet expectations. Mothers or fathers raising children alone, or in poverty, or in situations of violence or isolation struggle daily with the demands of this role. These situations and so many more are the ones that we'll center in our "Forever Beloved" service. Over tables in Kelly Auditorium, we'll share stories and communion, prayers and silence, blessing and healing, all wrapped in the hope we know from God whose love for us never, ever ends and in whom we are forever beloved. If you are needing space to wrap your complicated situations with mother, father, or children, join us for Forever Beloved. All are welcome!

### **June 3 | Children and Families to the NC Zoo**

The Children's Ministry Team is planning fun summer adventures for you and your kiddos! RSVP in the Newsletter by May 26, first up, the zoo!

### **Seeking Donations | Crisis Control**

The gift for May is applesauce (no glass jars please). Drop off donations in the lower level bins. Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry to our Winston-Salem community.

### **Sign Up | Newsletter**

Send an email to [abigail@firstonfifth.org](mailto:abigail@firstonfifth.org) to sign up for our weekly newsletter and never miss a thing!

### **Seeking Information | Celebrating Our Graduates**

If you or a family member is graduating from high school, technical school, college, graduate, or professional school this year, we want to celebrate you! Please email Abigail ([abigail@firstonfifth.org](mailto:abigail@firstonfifth.org)) by Tuesday, May 30 for inclusion in the June 4 worship guide: name, school of graduation, degree completed, and relationship to you (i.e. child, grandchild, etc.). Thank you for helping us to celebrate our graduates!

### **June 11 - Aug 27 | Churchwide Sunday School**

Keep your thinking caps on even as school lets out for the summer, because a wonderful stretch of summer learning opportunities are just on the horizon! For a number of years now, our church has offered churchwide Sunday School class options in the summer for any individual or class who would like to participate. We're delighted to offer two churchwide Sunday School options this year, and encourage all – newcomers and long-termers alike! – to find your place this summer and enjoy! Read more on our website [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org) or in your newsletter.

### **First on Fifth Seeks Ministry Assistant**

The Personnel Committee of First Baptist on Fifth is delighted to begin a search for a Ministry Assistant to attend to the comprehensive administrative functions of the ministries of First on Fifth. This part-time, 20 hour/week job will attend to the variety of needs in the church's ministries. The position is ideal for an organized, flexible, and trustworthy candidate interested in working in a role and context with variety in daily tasks and meaningful relationships with fellow staff and members. The job will be centered in-person, with a rhythm that will be based on a work schedule of Monday - Thursday, 9am-2:30pm, and able to flex occasionally. Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter by Wednesday, May 31, to our Pastor Emily at [emily@firstonfifth.org](mailto:emily@firstonfifth.org). If you know anyone who might be interested in applying, please feel free to send along this information, available on our website at <https://firstonfifth.org/employment>. Thank you for your prayers for this new partner in ministry!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, May 21

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, and Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 12:00 pm Congregational Conversation (*Kelly*)

MONDAY, May 22

TUESDAY, May 23

- 4:30 pm Nominating Committee (*online*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, May 24

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (*Commons*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, May 25

- 10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (*online*)

FRIDAY, May 26

SATURDAY, May 27

SUNDAY, May 28

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, and Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 12:00 pm Congregational Conversation (*Kelly*)

MONDAY, May 29

Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

## CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour  
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Worship, Arts, Administration  
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John Young  
*Facilities Manager*  
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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 5:00pm  
Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm



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