



## TENDING OUR STORIES

Lee Loftis

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 13:31-33 (Pew Bible NT p. 11)

Joseph Jones

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## THE MINISTRY OF SILENCE

*(Please use these moments to consider the scripture that has been read.)*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Williamson

*(Please pray in unison.)*

**God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole,  
a heavenly realm that is near and close at hand,  
and is ours to choose each day.  
Forgive us for neglecting that which is small,  
for in doing so we often miss your kingdom right here among us.  
May our smallest acts of kindness, when transformed by your love,  
grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

David Williamson

Leader: Friends, the kingdom of God has come near.

All are welcomed, all are loved, all is forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## ANTHEM: *Nearer, My God, to Thee*

arr. D. Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee, even though it be a cross that raiseth me.  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee. Oh, let the way  
appear, leading to heaven. All that Thou sendest me, in mercy given. Thy Spirit  
beckons me, nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to Thee. There in my Father's home,  
safe and at rest, there in my Savior's love, perfectly blest. Age after age to be nearer,  
my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

## 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.

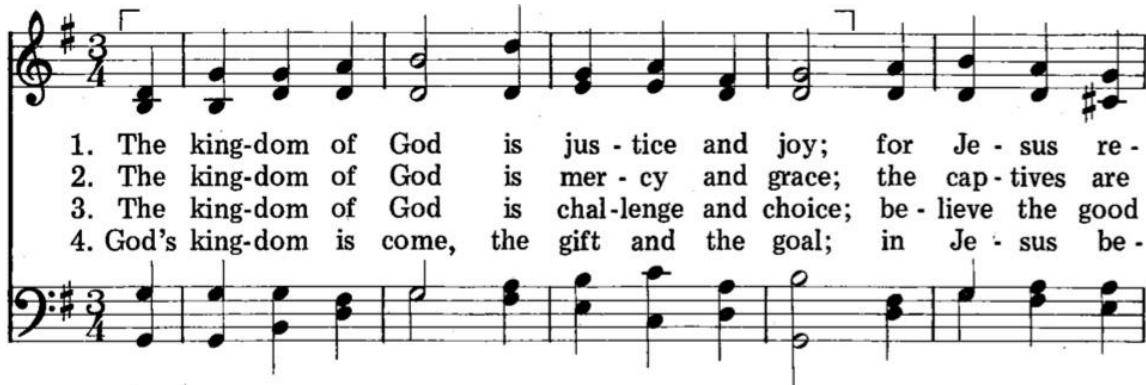
## SERMON: "Tending What's Small"

Emily Hull McGee

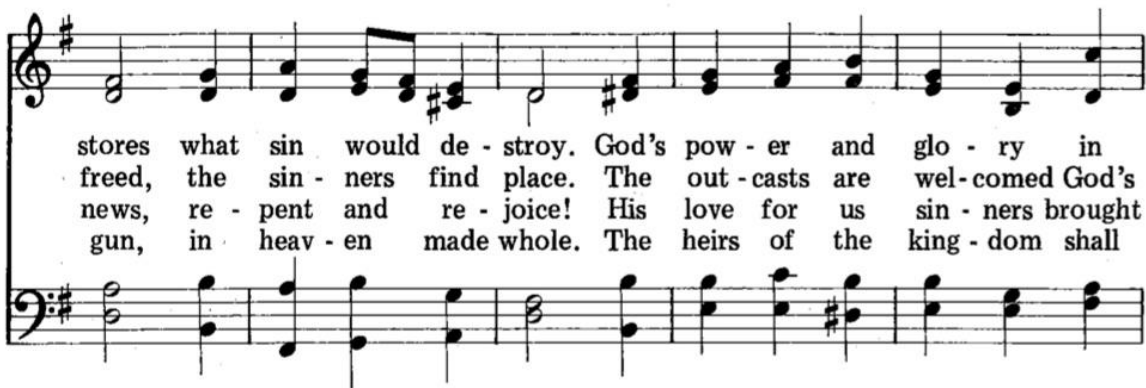
\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy*

HANOVER

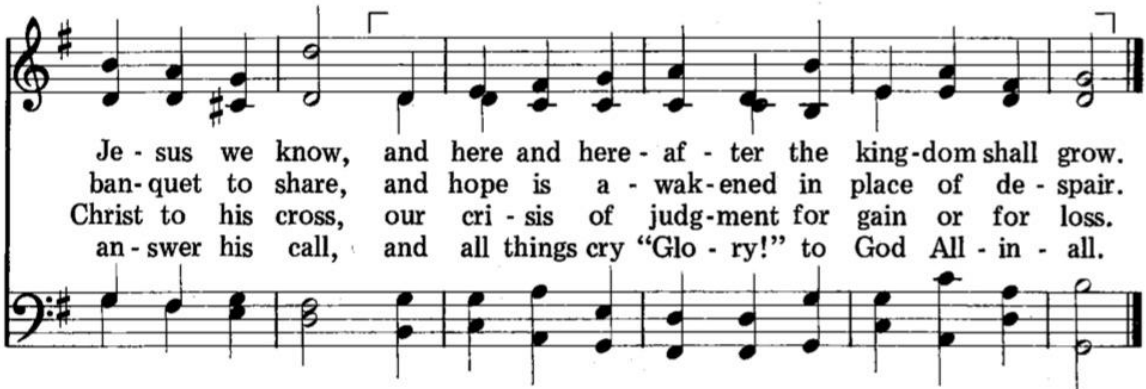
*God calls all to respond! Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front and share your commitment with one of our ministers.*



1. The king-dom of God is jus - tice and joy; for Je - sus re -  
2. The king-dom of God is mer - cy and grace; the cap - tives are  
3. The king-dom of God is chal - lenge and choice; be - lieve the good  
4. God's king-dom is come, the gift and the goal; in Je - sus be -



stores what sin would de - stroy. God's pow - er and glo - ry in  
freed, the sin - ners find place. The out - casts are wel - comed God's  
news, re - pent and re - joice! His love for us sin - ners brought  
gun, in heav - en made whole. The heirs of the king - dom shall



Je - sus we know, and here and here - af - ter the king-dom shall grow.  
ban - quet to share, and hope is a - wak - ened in place of de - spair.  
Christ to his cross, our cri - sis of judg - ment for gain or for loss.  
an - swer his call, and all things cry "Glo - ry!" to God All - in - all.

\*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE

Carlos Mir

*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).*

**\*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: Sonata No. 2 in D major, *Allegro***

J.S. Bach

Emily Grissing, Cello  
Jacob Hill, Piano

\*Those who are able will please stand.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**SERVING TODAY**

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Carlos Mir and Joseph Jones
<u>Children &amp; Families Greeter:</u>	Kim Wilkinson
<u>Streaming and Sound Team:</u>	Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Amber Myers

**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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### **Tending: This Year at First on Fifth**

The Christian life is a life of tending. Tending can have us stretching toward practices and places of our care, or holding fast to that which captures our focus and tendencies. Yet in a season of our common life when our attention is a most significant currency, when all that pulls at us causes us to distend from God or from hope, when our earth bears the scars of all we cannot sustain, and when our church's commitments will thrive with our continued nurture, a season of energy around "tending" will center us in the God who tends nothing less than our very souls.

October 1

*Tending What's Priceless* | Matthew 13:44-50

### **Today is Joining Sunday!**

This step for newcomers to become part of a beloved community can sometimes feel intimidating, and we make it a little less so by inviting folks who are at this place in their journey to make that step together. At the conclusion of worship today, all who would like to join First on Fifth are invited to walk down front and share this good news with the congregation!

### **Fall Fellowship | October 1**

As the air gets crisper and the days get shorter, it's time to gather and celebrate fall! On Sunday morning, October 1, we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday, where Christians all around the world observe communion in many forms. That night, we'll gather again at the church house for another feast! This time, we'll be outside in the back lawn and breezeway, with a cookout dinner, yard games, a photo booth, fellowship around the table, and even a time of blessing for our pets! Mark your calendars now for October 1, 5:00-7:00pm, then RSVP in the newsletter and sign up to help bring it to life! Dinner will be \$5/person (grilled beef and veggie burgers, chips, cookies, and drinks).

### **Older Adult Lunch and Learn | October 10**

Our next monthly gathering will be Tuesday, October 10! This will be in Kelly Auditorium at 11:30. We will dig deeper into CBFNC life and hear updates from Executive Coordinator (and church member!), Larry Hovis. Lunch will be provided! Sign up in the newsletter or by emailing Amy at [amy@firstonfifth.org](mailto:amy@firstonfifth.org).

### **Volunteer Opportunities through First on Fifth**

The Missions Committee calls all individuals, Sunday School classes, or small groups to be a part of missions in action with the following opportunities:

- Provide a meal for one of our Missions Partners (Pivot, Flourish, and the Street School)
- Welcome 104 refugees arriving in the triad area in August and September through World Relief.
- Consider answering the call from Crisis Control to be a front desk volunteer on Wednesdays.
- Tutor students at Ashley Academy

There is more information about each of these opportunities in the church newsletter! Email the Missions Committee ([missions@firstonfifth.org](mailto:missions@firstonfifth.org)) with any questions you may have. Thank you for serving our neighbors with love!

### **First Films | October 13**

Our Fall Film Series continues on Friday, October 13, with a showing of *At Eternity's Gate*. Director Julian Schnabel offers this impressionistic take on the latter life of painter Vincent Van Gogh featuring a powerful performance by Willem DaFoe. Showtime is 6:30pm in Kelly Auditorium and admission is free. Popcorn and drinks included!

### **Quarterly Church Conference | October 17, 6:00pm**

As is our custom, we gather for a Quarterly Church Conference on October 17 at 6:00pm in Kelly Auditorium. In addition to regular reports, this gathering will feature recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding the proposed 2024 Ministry Funding Plan. A detailed copy of the plan will be available in the church office and church newsletter during the week of October 8. There will be a Zoom option available for those who cannot attend in person, and a light supper provided for those in attendance. See the newsletter for more information!

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

The gifts for September are canned greens. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, September 24

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:15 am First Impressions (*Commons*)
- 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*)
- 2:00 pm Funeral Service for Emil Nathan (*Sanctuary*)
- 4:00 pm New Member Meet and Greet (*offsite*)

MONDAY, September 25

TUESDAY, September 26

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Baraca Room*)
- 4:30 pm Nominating Committee (*online*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, September 27

- 10:30 am Staff meeting (*Commons*)
- 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, September 28

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

FRIDAY, September 29

SATURDAY, September 30

SUNDAY, October 1

- 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*)
- 5:00 pm Churchwide Fall Fellowship

## CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour  
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John Young  
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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Friday, 8:30am - 12:30pm



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