



Vincent Van Gogh, *The Sower*

“What I Have Learned So Far”

by Mary Oliver

Meditation is old and honorable, so why should I not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside, looking into the shining world? Because, properly attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion.

Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labor in its cause? I don't think so.

All summations have a beginning, all effect has a story, all kindness begins with a sown seed.

Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of light is the crossroads of — indolence, or action.

Be ignited, or be gone.

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 10, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Little Prelude and Fugue in F Major*

Susan Welch, Organ

J.S. Bach

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 119:105, 111

Kara Parker

Leader: Your word, O Lord, is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

**All: Your word is our heritage forever,
the joy of our hearts!**

*HYMN 34: *Word of God, Across the Ages*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Zack Jackson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Rob Norwood

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of Your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. ___ when my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. ___ When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil. ___

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Devin Withrow

Leader: Friends, let us present to God the rocky ground of our lives that through God's abundant grace and mercy we might be transformed into good soil.

**All: Patient, persistent, and planting God,
We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy:
We have not loved you with whole hearts.
We have preferred the ways of this world
and too often have chosen paths that lead to death.
Forgive us, Holy God.
In the mystery of your love, plant new life in us.
Sow the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts
until we bloom and flourish
with your passionate love for this world. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

David Williamson

Leader: God has planted the seeds of the Gospel in our hearts, and something new is springing up. Grace and mercy have taken root. Let the Alleluias arise; for God has forgiven his people!

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: Alleluia

E. Harris

Sanctuary Choir

Come adoring and confessing, Alleluia. Come to God, receive His blessing, Alleluia. God of Gods and King of Kings, Alleluia. Maker of all wondrous things, Alleluia. Sing we praises unto you, Alleluia. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy McClure

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: To Hold and to Stretch"

Emily Hull McGee

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Come to Tend God's Garden

WYE VALLEY

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. Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,
planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant heath!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!
2. As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise
stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!
3. May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
may God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,
charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!

***PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE**

Joanne Henley

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.

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Amy McClure

*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: *Fuge in C* (BuxWV 174)

D. Buxtehude

David Williamson, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes:</u>	Jordynn Elizalde and Liam McGee
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Joanne Henley
<u>Children & 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.



Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

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



501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | firstonfifth.org
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FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

September 17

Tending What's Different | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

September 24

Tending What's Small | Matthew 13:31-33

October 1

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

Last Call for Adult Ministry Team Survey!

Our Adult Ministry Team is excited to respond to our growing congregation and broadening interests. In order to best serve you, we ask that you complete the survey in the newsletter **today** about what would best meet your curiosities and capacities for this school year. Thank you for strengthening our ministry!

Older Adult Fellowship Brunch | September 13

Our next older adult monthly fellowship will be Wednesday, September 13! (Previously scheduled for Tuesday, September 12) Due to scheduling conflicts with the restaurant, make note of this change and join us *Wednesday* at 10:00am at Carriage House for brunch! Sign up in the newsletter or RSVP with Amy!

Deacon Recommendation Forms Due September 17

All active members of First Baptist on Fifth received a letter in the mail last week, asking you to recommend a slate of eight deacons for their consideration and election to serve in the 2024-2026 term. Deacons at First on Fifth are our church's primary servant leaders, offering guidance for our beloved community on matters of spiritual discernment and doing so with a collaborative spirit. Each Deacon also is assigned a handful of individuals and families in our church to care for. Our Deacons meet monthly after worship for

lunch, prayer, and discussion. Please submit your Deacon Recommendation Forms to the boxes in the Sanctuary, narthex, and church office no later than Sunday, September 17. Thank you for your participation in recommending new Deacons!

Weekly Studies Begin Again

Tuesday Morning Devotional Classics

Baraca Room, Tuesdays, 7:30am, starting Sept 12

Curriculum: A study of *Thunder in the Soul: To Be Known by God*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel. This is a sampler of Heschel's many books and can be found on Amazon; see link in the newsletter.

Leader: David Williamson, david@firstonfifth.org

Older Adult Weekly Fellowship

Zoom, Thursdays, 10:00am

Curriculum: A study of *Spiritual Direction* by Henri Nouwen. Books are \$10; see Amy to order!

Leader: Amy McClure, amy@firstonfifth.org

Join First on Fifth at Bookmarks | September 23

Join the Communications & Outreach Team for the Bookmarks Festival on Saturday, September 23, from 9AM-5PM, where we will host a booth and enjoy time with our neighbors. Sign up after worship today in the Commons with members of the Communications & Outreach Team, or read more in the newsletter!

First Impressions | September 24, 9:15 AM

All new or prospective members to First Baptist are invited to join in our First Impressions class. First Impressions familiarizes newcomers with an in-depth look at First Baptist, including ways in which people can connect, get involved in ministry, and join the church. This First Impressions gathering will be held on September 24, from 9:15-10:30 AM in the Commons. Please RSVP to Zack at zack@firstonfifth.org by Thursday, September 24.

Joining Sunday | September 24

Our next Joining Sunday is planned for September 24 at the end of worship. 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. See Zack with questions!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, September 10

- 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 Prayer Partners Care Packages Event (*Kelly Auditorium*)

MONDAY, September 11

- 5:30 pm House and Grounds Committee (*online*)
- 6:00 pm Personnel Committee

TUESDAY, September 12

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Baraca Room*)
- 5:00 pm Finance Ministry Funding meeting (*online*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, September 13

- 10:00 am Older Adult Brunch (*offsite*)
- 10:30 am Staff meeting (*Commons*)
- 5:30 pm Handbell Choir (*Sanctuary*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, September 14

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

FRIDAY, September 15

SATURDAY, September 16

SUNDAY, September 17

- 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 Deacons Meeting (*Kelly Auditorium*)

CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour
Accounting Manager
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OFFICE HOURS

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



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