



“When we take up our cross voluntarily, we are subverting the binary of those who would either put the cross on others against their will or accept defeat by weakly having the cross put on us. When we take up our cross and follow Jesus, we will find that by the logic of the gospel, we will find our life again and again and again.”

✝ George Mason

God at the center of our lives, our true life is found only in you. May we let go of all that is not life, all that is not you, that we may live in that freedom granted through the cross. Amen.

✝ Walter Brueggemann

Transfiguration, Lauren Wright Pittman

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, February 25, 2024 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: Prière

C. Saint-Saëns

Emily Grissing, Cello
Jacob Hill, Piano

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

PRAYER OF THE DAY

David Williamson

Please read in unison.

**Holy God,
your Son Jesus bore the cross for our salvation
and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world.
Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him,
that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship
and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN 357: *O Praise the Gracious Power*

MARION

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 8:31-38

Steve Smith

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

INTERLUDE: *Take Up Thy Cross and Follow Me*

B. McKinney

Emily Grissing, Cello

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amy McClure

Leader: The call to discipleship challenges us
each and every day to take up the cross,
die to self, and embrace a new way of living.
It is a challenging way,
but always accompanied by God's grace and mercy.
In full assurance of God's forgiveness,
let us confess our sins:

**All: Merciful God,
we confess that we live insincere lives.
We claim to follow Jesus,
but avoid his path of sacrificial love.
We profess to be his disciples,
but we are reluctant to bear the cost of discipleship.
We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but too often choose self-indulgence.
Forgive us and free us from the burden of our guilt.
May our repentance be sincere and life-changing,
giving evidence of God's rule and reign among us.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: 1 Peter 2:24

Amy McClure

Leader: Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us share the sign of peace with these words:
May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.)

ANTHEM: *Wayfaring Stranger*

arr. C. Courtney

Sanctuary Choir
Emily Grissing, Cello
Jacob Hill, Piano

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger while traveling through this world below; yet there's no sickness, toil, nor danger in that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my Father, I'm going there no more to roam. I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home. I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my way is rough and steep; yet golden fields lie out before me, where weary eyes no more shall weep. I'm going there to meet my mother. She said she'd meet me when I come. I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home. I want to wear a crown of glory when I get home to that good land. I want to shout salvation's story in concert with the heavenly band. I'm going there to meet my Savior, to sing His praise forevermore! I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger while traveling through this world below; I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home.

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: "Again and Again: Gaining and Losing"

Emily Hull McGee

HYMN OF RESPONSE 443: *Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

HENDON

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**

Nikki Byers

The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship of which all are invited to participate. In a moment, Deacons will pass the offering plates for you to share your 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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Emily Hull McGee

***DOXOLOGY**

WONDROUS LOVE

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!

***BENEDICTION**

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: Op. 122, No. 3, *O Welt ich muß dich lassen*

J. Brahms

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Nikki Byers and Steve Smith
<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 after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply within the life of 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 kindergarteners is available in the nursery on the first floor. The balcony continues to be reserved for those preferring extra distance. We're so glad you're here!

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK OF LOVE THROUGH FIRST BAPTIST ON FIFTH

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates 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

BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Again & Again: Worship this Lent

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats. And yet, in the midst of the chaos of our lives, God tends to us by offering a sacred refrain: "*I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.*" Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward. Join us this Lent in worship and in study as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

March 3

Again & Again: Tearing Down & Raising Up
John 2:13-22

March 10

Again & Again: Perishing & Living
John 3:14-21

March 17

Again & Again: Losing & Finding
John 12:20-33

March 24 | Palm Sunday

Again & Again: Emptying & Filling
Mark 11:1-11

March 31 | Easter Sunday

Again & Again: Here & There & Everywhere
Mark 16:1-8

Wednesdays in Lent | Adult Ministry Team Lenten Study

Our Adult Ministry Team will lead shared reflections on Walter Brueggemann's *A Way Other than Our Own: Devotions for Lent* on Wednesdays in Lent (February 21-March 27, Except February 28) from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in the commons. Books can be purchased online through the link in your newsletter or through the church office for \$10.

Tuesday Morning Devotional Classics

Baraca Room, Tuesdays, 7:30am

Curriculum: The Tuesday morning group will begin a study of *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman on March 5.

Leader: David Williamson, david@firstonfifth.org

Easter Lilies

If you would like to give a lily in honor or memory of a loved one, please pick up a form in front of the commons and return it with your payments to the church office no later than Sunday, March 3. The cost is \$15.00 per lily.

February 28 | Tending to the End: How to Prepare & Keep Your Estate Executor Calm

Our Older Adult Ministry Team continues their 2-month series to help people of all ages prepare for unexpected illnesses, medical mishaps, and even death. It's a topic that is hard to discuss and most of us would rather not think about. However, we would like to ease that process by helping everyone best prepare as a gift to our friends and family. We will give you tangible step-by-step guides on what to do, how to do it, who to contact, etc. Lunch is provided starting at 11:45 (donations accepted if able), followed by a coffee break between sessions. Sessions will be held in Kelly Auditorium and will conclude at 2:15 pm. Please RSVP in the newsletter!

Session 2: Wednesday, February 28, 11:45 am
Funeral Home (Salem Funeral Home)
Church (Church Staff)

March 2 | Women's Spring Fellowship, 9:30 am

Join us in the Commons for Spring Women's fellowship on Saturday, March 2 at 9:30. Light refreshments will be provided and we will discuss upcoming fellowship and service opportunities. All women of First are invited. Contact Holly Kessler with questions.

March 3 | First Missions - Kids edition!

Please join us on Sunday, March 3 immediately following worship from 12:15 - 2:00 pm to participate in a missions project led by our two fabulous team leaders, Mr. Wally and Ms. Kim! We will be building bird and/or butterfly houses. Once completed, these will be used to give to our ramp ministry as they build ramps for people in our community. Parents will be expected to stay with their kids throughout this project as it is very hands-on. We need to know how many to plan for, so please RSVP in your newsletter.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, February 25

- 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 Youth Lunch (*Baraca*)

MONDAY, February 26

TUESDAY, February 27

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

WEDNESDAY, February 28

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:45 am Tending to the End event (*Kelly*)
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, February 29

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

FRIDAY, March 1

SATURDAY, March 2

- 9:30 am Women's Fellowship (*Commons*)

SUNDAY, March 3

- 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*)
12:30 pm First Missions-Kids (*Kelly*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour
Accounting Manager
sally@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1103

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Music Associate / Organist
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Rev. Amy McClure
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Rev. Emily Hull McGee
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John Young
Facilities Manager
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Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for February are soul foods (canned greens, black-eyed peas, cornbread mix, etc.). Please drop off donations in the first-floor bins. Thank you!



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