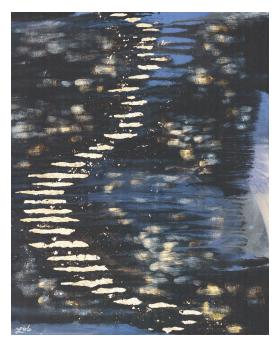
Nicodemus understood this was no easy mantra. It was, rather, an invitation to be reborn – innocent, vulnerable, dependent – open to the wind, fixed on the one with the cross. He found his world had been opened and his old world contradicted. He wondered, 'how could this be?' He wondered whether his old self would be turned to new self. And we, alongside him, also wonder."

In this season of Lent, O God, unsettle us. Increase in us that sense of gnawing that arises from the incongruity between our lives and the life to which you call us, and transform us in newness. Amen.

+ Walter Brueggemann



Light Wave, Lisle Gwynn Garrity

# First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Sunday, March 10, 2024 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: Op. 122, No. 11, O Welt, ich muß dich lassen Jacob HIII, Organ

J. Brahms

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**Emily Hull McGee** 

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

Twyla Nelson

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

All: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,

for his wonderful works to humankind.

All: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

\*HYMN 335: Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

**HYFRYDOL** 

PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Amy McClure** 

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 3:14-21

Charla Haley-Caudle

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION: Stand in Awe

E. Lorenz

Sanctuary Choir

Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart, and be still. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted. Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart and be still. Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Kyle Caudle** 

Leader: This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

All: Liberating God, forgive us;

for we thought the darkness could hide our faults, our failures, and our fears. Give us the courage and strength to confess to you that which you already know; and grant us the humility to live transparently and honestly before others. Set us free from a past we cannot change; and open us to a future in which we can be changed, May we, through your grace, grow more and more into the image and likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who illuminates our darkness. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Ephesians 2:1-10

Zack Jackson

Leader: Hear this good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Let us celebrate with thanksgiving the generous grace of our God.

All: Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSE:** Variations on the Doxology

arr. S. Tucker

**Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir** 

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Linda Lewis

#### 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: Perishing and Living"

Emily Hull McGee

# \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 682: Christ Be My Leader

**SLANE** 

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.

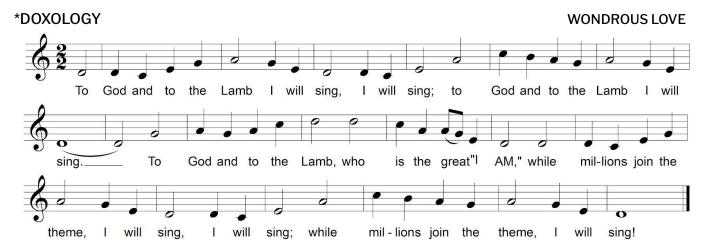
## \*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE

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

Amy McClure



\*BENEDICTION Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: Jesu, meine Freude, BWV. 610

J.S. Bach

Jacob Hill, Organ

<sup>\*</sup>Those who are able will please stand.

#### **SERVING TODAY**

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u> Minerva Fox and Twyla Nelson

Children & Families Greeter: Kim Wilkinson

Streaming and Sound Team: 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.







#### Holy Week at First on Fifth

#### March 24 | Palm Sunday

Palms and hosannas fill the air as we enter Holy Week. The Ardmore Brass offers special music.

## March 28 | Stations of the Cross, 12-1pm

Stop by the church house for a mid-day guided pause for reflection by walking the outdoor Stations of the Cross and receiving communion. Music will be provided by Terry Lefler, dulcimer.

## March 28 | Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm

We gather in Kelly Auditorium to practice the "new commandment" from Jesus through the earthy, tangible symbols of communion & handwashing. Acoustic music will feature Terry Lefler and Kyle Caudle.

## March 29 | Good Friday Tenebrae Worship, 7pm

The shadows of the cross beckon us to the scriptures and stories from Jesus' final hours with music by the Sanctuary Choir and Dr. Alicia Chapman, oboe.

#### March 31 | Easter Sunday

Easter joy reminds us: death is never the end of the story! Bring flowers from your garden and join for breakfast goodies by the flower cross at 9:30. Worship led by a string ensemble and our Sanctuary Choir will be filled with Easter joy at 11am. After worship, all are invited to take a plant from the front steps as a reminder of new life in abundance!

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## March 14-15 | CBFNC Annual Gathering

All are invited to the 30th anniversary celebration for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, to be held at First Baptist Church of Greensboro. Our church will be well-represented in leadership in worship, on planning committees, and leading in a workshop. While the date to register online has now passed, you can register onsite at First Baptist Greensboro; find out more at cbfnc.org/annualgathering.

#### March 17 | Alliance of Baptists Info Session

On Sunday, March 17, in the Baraca Room following worship, all are invited to an informational session about the Alliance of Baptists led by three of our members: Kris Norris, Richard Groves, and Lynn Rhoades. This informational session is intended to share about the work of the Alliance from some of its current and past leadership, particularly for anyone curious to learn more or interested in attending the Annual Gathering at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, April 12-14.

#### **Affinity Groups Survey**

Interested in joining an Affinity Group this spring? Fill out the survey in your newsletter to let our First on Fifth staff know your interests and availability! Please complete the survey by **March 17**. We hope to announce the first round of affinity groups in our April newsletter! Should you have any questions, please contact Olena at olena@firstonfifth.org.

## March 20 | Older Adult Lunch

Please join us for a fellowship lunch on Wednesday, March 20 at 11:30 am at Southern Family Restaurant. Let us know if you plan to come by signing up in your newsletter.

## **CBF Offering for Global Missions**

We join with Cooperative Baptists to collect the CBF Offering for Global Missions today, March 10, and next Sunday, March 17. We give thanks for the gift to extend the love of Christ around the world!

# **Seeking Donations | Crisis Control**

The gifts for March are canned meats (Canned Tuna, Canned Salmon, Canned Ham, etc.). Please drop off donations in the first-floor bins. Thanks!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, March 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)

12:30 pm Deacons Meeting (Kelly Auditorium)

MONDAY, March 11

5:30 pm House and Grounds (online)

TUESDAY, March 12

7:30 am Devotional Classics (Baraca Room)

8:00 pm Evening Prayer (online)

WEDNESDAY, March 13

10:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Shared Lenten Reflections (Commons)

5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, March 14

10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (online) CBFNC Annual Gathering, Greensboro

FRIDAY, March 15

CBFNC Annual Gathering, Greensboro

SATURDAY, March 16

SUNDAY, March 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))

12:30 pm Alliance of Baptists Info Session

(Baraca Room)

**OFFICE HOURS** 

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

Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

## **CHURCH STAFF**

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Rev. Amy McClure

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Children, Senior Adults, Pastoral Care

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Rev. Emily Hull McGee

**Pastor** 

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