



When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

+ Wendell Berry

*Water Reflections*, Linda Olsen

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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 12, 2024 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Three Preludes, II. Rhosymedre*

Jacob Hill, Organ

R. Vaughan-Williams

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Silas McGee

God, thank you for the water. Thank you for octopuses, seaweed, sharks, whales, and mermaids. Water can do lots of things like help grow plants and big trees. It can help us grow as we drink it, and we have so much fun swimming in it with our toys. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Written by the PreK - Kindergarten Class*

\*HYMN 14: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

MELITA

THE WONDER OF CREATION: *Water*

Norah Knight

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Williamson

Leader: We thank God for the beauty of creation,  
including the water that replenishes and nourishes life on this earth.  
May we commit to being the good stewards God calls us to be.  
May we confess our carelessness and our wastefulness.  
May we commit to so order our lives that we might tend with care  
God's generous gifts to humankind. Let us pray:

**All: Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation,  
and every living thing belongs to you.  
Have mercy on us and forgive us for our lack of care and concern.  
We give you thanks for water – oceans, rivers, streams and lakes –  
that serve to sustain life and ecosystems beyond our visions and our imaginations.  
Give us grateful hearts for the clean water we enjoy,  
and expand our hearts to desire the same in every part of your world.  
You make the sun to rise on the evil and the good,  
and send rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.  
May we have the will and the courage to share our resources  
as generously as you provide them. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

David Williamson

Leader: The rain that falls freely on the righteous and the unrighteous  
serves as a sacrament of God's unconditional love for humankind.  
Just as God's love comes to us as free as the rain, so we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Assured of God's mercy and grace,  
let us share the sign of peace with one another:  
May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## ANTHEM: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

J. Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, For the love which from  
our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn  
of praise. For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night, Hill and vale  
and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent,  
child, Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of  
all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine to  
our race so freely given, Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of  
heaven: Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 65

Zack Jackson

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Cyrus Bush

### 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: "All Nature Sings: Water"

Emily Hull McGee

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 323: *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

*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

Twyla Nelson

*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](http://firstonfifth.org).*

## GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

David Williamson

### \*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: *Concerto in G, Mvt. I, BWV. 592*

J.S. Bach

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

## FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Hearing assistance devices are available from greeters in the narthex.

## FLOWERS

The rose at the pulpit is placed in celebration of the birth of William “Liam” Trenton Chestnut, son of Bradley and Caitlyn Chestnut, born May 4, 2024.

## SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week: Twyla Nelson and Cyrus Bush  
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.



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2024-25 academic year for the following scholarships; the deadline is May 17. You can find the applications on our website.

- The [Blackwell Memorial Fund Scholarship](#), providing scholarships for North Carolina students preparing for a career in ministry within the Baptist tradition.
- The [Ida Tilson Scholarship](#), providing scholarships to students enrolled at institutions of learning and study, not limited to 4-year colleges. Applications for vocational training programs will be accepted.

## Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for May are Spices. (Cinnamon, Cumin, Salt, Pepper, Vanilla extract, Basil, Tajin, etc.). Please drop off donations in the first-floor bins. Thank you!



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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**Announcing Rev. Kyle Caudle,  
Associate Pastor for Youth, Missions, Adults**

The Associate Pastor Search Committee, Personnel Committee, and Deacons joyfully and unanimously present to the church Rev. Kyle Caudle as candidate for our Associate Pastor for Youth, Missions, and Adults. The congregation will formally consider his candidacy in a call weekend, May 17-19, concluding in a vote of the church on May 19 to affirm him as our next Associate Pastor. For more information about Kyle and the call weekend, visit [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org).

**May 15 | Older Adult Lunch - Meet our  
Communications Team!, 11:30 am**

Please join us for lunch, fellowship, and a great program led by our new Communications Team, Ryan Jones and Olena Withrow! A meal will be provided with a recommended donation (Cash or check). A basket for donations will be available, and as always, payment is not required, but appreciated! RSVP in your newsletter

**May 15 | Pride Festival Planning**

The Communications/Outreach Ministry Team is delighted to begin our planning for this year's Pride Parade and Festival, to be held June 22. We need your help! All who are interested in helping to shape our church's presence at Pride this year are invited to a planning meeting on Wednesday, May 15, from 5:00-6:15pm in the Commons. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Come with your ideas!

**May 18 | Ordination Service for Jill Knight**

With joyful affirmation from the Deacons, Ordination Council, and congregation, all are invited to gather for Jill Knight's ordination to the gospel ministry on Saturday, May 18, at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. Congratulations, Jill!

**May 19 | Church Picnic at Leinbach Park**

Come one, come all to our churchwide celebration picnic on Sunday, May 19 - Pentecost Sunday! As we celebrate the birthday of the church, we invite you to a big ol' birthday party! We'll gather at Leinbach Park on Sunday, May 19, from 5:00-7:00pm. The church will provide meat and drinks; please bring a side or dessert to share! Kids can enjoy the great playground, and we'll all

celebrate the gift of our church family. All are welcome! RSVP in your newsletter.

**Deacon Recommendation Forms Due May 19**

All active members of First Baptist on Fifth are invited to recommend a slate of eight deacons for their consideration and election to serve in the 2025-2027 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 is assigned a handful of individuals and families in our church to offer compassion, care, and help when needed. Please read over the letter carefully and submit your Deacon Recommendation Forms to the boxes in the Sanctuary, narthex, and church office **no later than Sunday, May 19**. Thank you for your participation in recommending these beloved friends to the service of Deacon!

**Summer Supper Club Sign-up**

This summer, you are invited by the New Member Ministry Team to take part in supper clubs during the months of June, July, and August. These small, intergenerational groups will gather periodically for meals and fellowship. We offer this opportunity as a way for those in our church to meet one another and become better acquainted, whether they have been part of our community for a short time or many years. Contact Zack at [zack@firstonfifth.org](mailto:zack@firstonfifth.org) with questions or concerns, and sign up in your newsletter by May 19.

**Resources for Prayer and Reflection Around  
Mother's and Father's Day**

For so many, Mother's Day and Father's Day are filled with the heartache of grief, loss, infertility, trauma, isolation, and fear. For any who need gentle, quiet space to pray and reflect, an assortment of resources will be available for your self-guided use in the prayer room from May 12 - June 16. The prayer room remains open on Sundays and throughout the week, and is located on the 2nd floor by the church offices and just a few steps away from the Sanctuary.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### SUNDAY, May 12

- 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*)

### MONDAY, May 13

- 5:30 pm House and Grounds Committee  
5:30 pm Slow Flow Yoga (*Kelly*)

### TUESDAY, May 14

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Baraca Room*)  
6:30 pm Reynolda Walking Group  
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

### WEDNESDAY, May 15

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting  
11:30 am Older Adult Lunch (*Kelly*)  
5:00 pm Pride Planning Meeting (*Commons*)  
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)  
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (*Choir Room*)

### THURSDAY, May 16

- 10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (*online*)  
12:00 pm Downtown Walking Affinity Group  
6:00 pm Community-wide Book Study (*Baraca*)  
6:00 pm Running Affinity Group (*offsite*)  
6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team meeting  
7:00 pm Missions Committee  
7:00 pm Vinyasa Yoga (*Kelly*)

### FRIDAY, May 17

- 6:30 pm Youth Fellowship Dinner with Kyle

### SATURDAY, May 18

- 11:00 am Hiking Affinity Group (*offsite*)  
4:00 pm Jill Knight Ordination

### SUNDAY, May 19

- 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 Church Picnic at Leinbach Park

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## CHURCH STAFF

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