



Life Together

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 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 22, 2024 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Nun Bitten Wir*

Susan Welch, Organ

D. Buxtehude

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CHORAL INTROIT: *The Kingdom of God*

Sanctuary Choir

Taize Community

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ash Henley

Leader: The kingdom of God is among us and within us.

All: May our consciousness be quickened by God's holiness;

Leader: May our minds be nourished by God's truth;

All: May our imaginations be purified by God beauty;

Leader: May our hearts be opened to God's love.

**All: May our wills be surrendered to God's good purposes,
as we gather before the Lord in adoration and praise.**

*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.

People: And also with you.

SHARING LIFE TOGETHER

Matt Steen

RESPONSE: All Are Welcome

M. Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly__ live,
a__ place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give.
Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, Rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come, all are wel - come,
all are wel - come in this place.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Williamson

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: James 3:1-12

Mary Kaylor

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

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

Devin Withrow

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Twyla Nelson

(Please read in unison.)

**Faithful God,
You know our sins even before we speak them.
Forgive us for every angry and idle word.
Forgive us for the hardened ground of our hearts.
Forgive us when worldly anxiety and attachment
crowd out your rightful place in our lives.
Cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness,
so that your kingdom may flourish. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Psalm 103:2-4, 10-12

Kyle Caudle

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits –
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
God does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Friends, by the steadfast and generous mercy of God we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Canon of Praise*

arr. H. Hopson

Sanctuary Choir

All within me bless the Lord; all within me bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, all within me, bless God's holy name. O hear, you righteous, know that the Lord is good. God the Lord is gracious, the same forever. As a father loves his children, so the Lord loves his own. Bless the Lord, O my soul; remember God's mercy, remember God's love. O bless the Lord, O my soul; O bless God's holy name.

SERMON: "Church is for Sustainability"

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *For Beauty of Meadows*

ST. DENIO

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

Joanne Henley

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

*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: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

arr. R. Hobby

Susan Welch, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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“For Beauty of Meadows” text by Walter Farquharson, © 1971 Walter Farquharson
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SERVING TODAY

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Joanne Henley and Twyla Nelson
<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. Welcome!

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

The Church is For...: Worship this Fall

Amidst our country's partisan divides, our differences in identity and ideology, our competing priorities and clashing values, and all that jostles for our attention and our loyalty, it's worth asking the question: *what is church for?* This fall in worship, we'll ask it together and find some answers, both in the key priorities of our upcoming building project and the commitments we share to this treasure of our life together that is gift and grace from God. Join us!

September 29

Church is for Accessibility
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

October 6

Church is for Legacy
James 5:7-20
World Communion Sunday / Joining Sunday

October 13

Church is for Life Together
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

October 20

We Have this Treasure
2 Corinthians 4:5-7

September 26 & 28 | Seeking Greeters

We are glad hosts again for our friends at Bookmarks for the annual Bookmarks Festival of Books and Authors! We'll host the Opening Keynote address with author T. J. Klune on Thursday, September 26, at 6:30pm and the Saturday Morning Keynote with Stacey Abrams on Festival day, Saturday, September 28, at 9:00am. Both of these are ticketed events (see bookmarksnc.org for more), but we need greeters to help welcome our community into the church house! Sign up by emailing Emily (emily@firstonfifth.org) if you are interested!

September 29 | First on Fifth 101, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us on Sunday, September 29 for First on Fifth 101! We will meet in Kelly Auditorium for a deeper dive into life at First on Fifth. This event will provide essential information about the life of our church, with specific attention given to helping members of our community know how to become more deeply involved in committees, ministry teams, small groups and Sunday School classes, and the church's various ministries. Additional information about finance, budget, and giving will be shared as a means of further orientation to our community and missions partners will be represented as well. Dinner will be provided. All are welcome to attend! RSVP in your newsletter by September 23 or by contacting Mary@firstonfifth.org

October 6 | Fall Fellowship, 5:00pm

As the air gets crisper and the days get shorter, it's time to gather and celebrate fall! On Sunday morning, October 6, 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 potluck dinner, yard games, fellowship around the table, and even a time of blessing for our pets. Please bring a side or dessert to share; the church will provide meat and a main dish option for vegetarians. Mark your calendars now for October 6, 5:00-7:00pm, then RSVP in the newsletter. See you there!

October 9 | Older Adult Lunch, 11:30 am

Please join us for lunch, fellowship, and to hear about Pastor Amy's sabbatical! RSVP in your newsletter.

October 13 | Life Together Campaign Pledges Due

We are so grateful for the widespread support of our *Life Together* building project and capital campaign! Thank you for your generosity and excitement as we match our commitments to hospitality, sustainability, accessibility, and legacy in our church house. All are invited to complete their pledges for the project by worship on Sunday, October 13. See our newsletter and website for online pledge forms and more info.

October 25-27 | Youth Fall Beach Retreat

The annual CBFNC Fall Youth Beach Retreat returns to Fort Caswell in Oak Island the weekend of October 25-27, 2024. First on Fifth youth (grades 6-12) are invited for a weekend filled with worship, Bible study, dance party, and lots of free time to play on the beach! The theme is HOLD ON and will focus on holding on to our identity in Christ. Cost is \$100/student. [RSVP by September 29](#) in your newsletter. For more information contact kyle@firstonfifth.org.

February 8-15 | Women's Trip to the DR

If you are interested in joining the annual trip to connect with Mission Emmanuel in Cielo, Dominican Republic in 2025, reach out to Lee Anne Stiffler (lstiffle70@gmail.com). Learn more in your newsletter.

Make Your Reservation Now for First on Fifth's Spring Camping Weekend, April 25-27!

The Adult Ministry Team is planning a First on Fifth camping weekend at nearby Morrow Mountain State Park in April. Come for rest, renewal, fellowship and fun! Read more in your newsletter. **In order to make your reservation, please RSVP in your newsletter or on Realm by no later than Sunday, September 29.** [Payment will be collected at a later date.](#)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, September 22

- 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*)
- 12:15 pm First Impressions (*Baraca*)
- 2:00 pm Arts & Crafts Affinity Group (*Baraca*)

MONDAY, September 23

- 7:00 pm Missions Committee (*online*)

TUESDAY, September 24

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Baraca*)
- 4:30 pm Nominating Committee (*online*)
- 5:00 pm Pavilion Area Plan Meeting (*Baraca*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, September 25

- 11:00 am Building Projects Task Force (*Baraca*)
- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (*Commons*)
- 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, September 26

- 8:30 am Downtown Walking Affinity Group
- 10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (*online*)
- 7:00 pm Bookmarks Keynote (*Sanctuary*)

FRIDAY, September 27

SATURDAY, September 28

- 9:00 am Bookmarks Event (*Sanctuary*)

SUNDAY, September 29

- 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*)
- 4:00 pm First on Fifth 101 (*Kelly*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

CHURCH STAFF

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Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for September are Instant Grits and Oatmeal. Please drop off donations in the first-floor bins. Thank you!



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