

“More than any other story in the Gospel, the parable of the prodigal son expresses the boundlessness of God’s compassionate love. And when I place myself in that story under the light of that divine love, it becomes painfully clear that leaving home is much closer to my spiritual experience than I might have thought...

Leaving home is ... much more than an historical event bound to time and place. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace, that I am indeed carved in the palms of God’s hands and hidden in their shadows. Leaving home means ignoring the truth that God has ‘fashioned me in secret, moulded me in the depths of the earth and knitted me together in my mother’s womb.’ Leaving home is living as though I do not yet have a home and must look far and wide to find one.”

+ Henri Nouwen



Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Sunday, March 30, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Elegie*

Emily Grissing, Cello

J. Schraivesande

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CHORAL INTROIT: *Tallis Doxology*

Sanctuary Choir

TALLIS CANON

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joani Hughes

Leader: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us
we have come to worship God and to sing God’s praise.

**All: With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds,
the sincerity of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.**

Leader: We love because God first loved us,
freeing us from the power of sin and death.

**All: With glad hearts let us join together in singing praise to God:
Creator, Word, and Spirit.**

*HYMN 337: *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

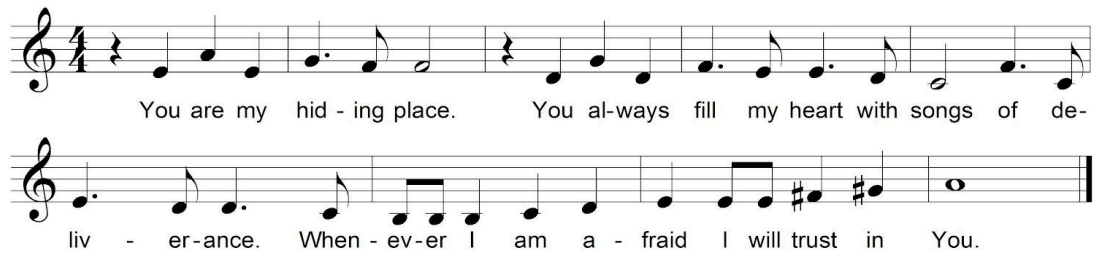
LAUDA ANIMA

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.

GOSPEL LESSON: Psalm 32

Amy McClure



You are my hid - ing place. You al - ways fill my heart with songs of de -
 liv - er - ance. When - ev - er I am a - fraid I will trust in You.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Rob Norwood

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kyle Caudle

Leader: Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ,
 let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**All: Merciful God,
 we confess that we have strayed from your ways.
 Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.
 You gave us the earth for our home,
 but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty.
 You gave us neighbors to love,
 but we pursue selfish ambitions.
 You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing,**

**but we break your law and forsake your love.
Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Kyle Caudle

Leader: As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: As sign and symbol of our desire to live
in the spirit and example of Jesus,
let us share his peace with these words:
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share the peace with those around you.)

SERMON: "Clear Out Your Shame"

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 295: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

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

Linda Jones

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, offering plates will be passed 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 on our website, firstonfifth.org.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

arr. J. Strong

Emily Grissing, Cello

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Kaylor

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: *Solemn Procession*

C. Hampton

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes:</u>	Eva Robertson and Lorelei Clark
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Linda Jones and Joani Hughes
<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.



LISTENING ASSIST AVAILABLE

We are so excited to announce that our listening assist program is officially up and running. To access these services, scan the QR code to download the Listen Everywhere app to your smartphone. Make sure you are connected to the firstonfifth-guest WIFI network. Password: boldandboundless. Select the main channel on the app, ensure the sound is unmuted in the bottom left corner, and listen through your headphones or hearing aids!



501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | firstonfifth.org
BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clear Out | Worship during Lent at First on Fifth

God is a clearing God, one who wants nothing to separate, get in the way, hinder the relationship we share. Yet in our relationships with God and each other, we pile the blockades high. Yet the season of Lent gifts us the chance to declutter our lives, to clear out and strip away and lay bare what obstructs the Way of Life. As we come before the refiner's fire, it's in the clearing that we find what we truly long to hold, and discover the Love that never lets us go has been there all along.

April 6 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Clear Out Your Caution

John 12:1-8

Communion Sunday

April 13 | Palm Sunday

Clear Out the Way

Luke 19:28-40

April 17 | Maundy Thursday

April 18 | Good Friday

April 20 | Easter Sunday

Looking for the Living

Luke 24:1-12

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Tuesdays in Lent | Lenten Book Study

This Lent you are invited to read a *Different Kind of Fast: Feeding Our True Hungers in Lent* by Christin Valters Painter. The Zoom book study will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm - 7:45pm. For more information contact kyle@firstonfifth.org

April 2 | Midweek Lenten Series

Join us for our last week in our series led by David Hull, *Deadly Sins in a Story of Life: The Seven Deadly Sins in the Parable of the Prodigal Son*-11:00am, Commons

Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites you to donate diapers size 3, 4, 5, and 6 to Una Bendición. This ministry provides a point of connection between Spanish-speaking families and the many available resources in our city. Please place donations by the Crisis Control bins on the first floor.

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for April are Applesauce & Canned Fruit. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

April 3 | Theology on Tap

Whether you're new to theology or have strong feelings about the Deuteronomistic history, come enjoy good company, meaningful conversation, and refreshing beverages at Fiddlin' Fish (772 Trade St.), Thursday at 7:30 pm. No pressure, just great dialogue in a laid-back setting. All are welcome! Contact Matt Steen if you plan to attend (mattsteen@gmail.com).

April 4 | Board Games Affinity Group

Join us for a fun-filled Churchwide Board Game Night every first Friday at 7pm in Baraca! Whether you're a seasoned strategist or just looking for a casual game, we'll have a variety of options to suit all ages and skill levels. Contact Dana Patrick with any questions (dpatrick@wakehealth.edu).

April 5 | Birding Affinity Group, 8:30am, Miller Park

Join with others for an opportunity to listen and seek God's creatures in trees and in the woods. Experience is not necessary but binoculars are. Open for all ages. We walk slowly and do a lot of listening. The group will meet in the tennis court parking lot at Miller Park near the tennis courts. **Please let Roper know if you plan to join by Thursday, April 3** (broro331@bellsouth.net).

April 5 | Young Adult Dinner

All young adults are invited to dinner at the home of Alice and Wally Cox at 6:30pm, Saturday, April 5th. Contact Mary Kaylor to RSVP.

April 6 | Missions Event: Immigration Education

The Missions Committee invites you to an educational evening with Immigration Attorney Helen Parsonage next Sunday at 6:00 pm in Baraca to explore immigration issues in our current context. Contact Kyle with any questions.

April 11 | First Films

This spring we take a glimpse of the life journeys of others. Join us at 6:30pm to Enjoy popcorn, refreshments, and an edifying experience with pew-mates and guests in Kelly Auditorium. In April we'll view the film: *Adam* (2019) 1hr 38mins.

April 12 | Children's Ministry Outing

Children and their families are invited to join for a fun afternoon in Greensboro at the ParTee Shack on Saturday, April 12 from 10:00- 2:00! Cost is \$15 for Adults and \$11 for Kids (ages 3-12). In between golf games, we'll enjoy a pizza lunch from the snack bar. *Please bring extra money to cover your lunch.* Please RSVP by March 31 in your newsletter. If you have any questions, contact Kim Wilkinson.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, March 30

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:15 am First Impressions (*Commons*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, & Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)

MONDAY, March 31

- 11:30 am Hymnal Task Force

TUESDAY, April 1

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Baraca*)
- 10:00 am Care Notes (*Commons*)
- 5:30 pm Personnel Committee (*Conference*)
- 7:00 pm Lent Book Study (*online*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, April 2

- 11:00 am Midweek Series (*Commons*)
- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (*Commons*)
- 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsals (*Sanctuary & Music Suite*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, April 3

- 10:00 am Downtown Walking Group
- 7:30 pm Theology on Tap (*offsite*)

FRIDAY, April 4

- 7:00 pm Board Games Affinity Group

SATURDAY, April 5

- 8:30 am Birding Affinity Group (*offsite*)
- 6:30 pm Young Adult Dinner (*offsite*)

SUNDAY, April 6

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, & Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 6:00 pm Missions Event (*Baraca*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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