



I know that the words spoken to Jesus when he was baptized are words spoken also to me and to all who are brothers and sisters of Jesus. My tendencies toward self-rejection and self-deprecation make it hard to hear these words truly and let them descend into the center of my heart. But once I have received these words fully, I am set free from my compulsion to prove myself to the world and can live in it without belonging to it. Once I have accepted the truth that I am God's beloved child, unconditionally loved, I can be sent into the world to speak and act as Jesus did.

+ Henri Nouwen, *Beyond the Mirror*

*Threshold*, by T. Denise Anderson

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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 11, 2026 • 11:00 AM

**PRELUDE: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

arr. G. Shearing

Jacob Hill, Organ

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

Emily Hull McGee

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

David Williamson

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: God of heaven and earth,  
you call us to come before you in humility,  
bringing the offering of our very lives.  
As you revealed Jesus to be your Son in his baptism,  
may you so claim our lives in baptism this day,  
and in our baptismal vows renewed,  
that we would live in full assurance  
that your love is stronger than our greatest weakness.

**All: Accept all we have and all we are, O God,  
in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and strengthen us with your Spirit's power,  
both now and forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN 285: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 3:13-17

Susan Welch

Leader: The word of God for the people of God..

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## THE ORDINANCE OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Owen Dellinger

Julie Hall

Nathan Mitchell

Day Pinto

## REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

\*HYMN 562: *Shall We Gather at the River*

HANSON PLACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Let us be bold and confess our sins to the God  
who welcomes us in baptism and calls us beloved,  
for the Lord is gracious and always ready to forgive.

**All: God of all mercy,  
in our baptism you have marked us as your own;  
you have called us to a new way of living and a new way of loving.  
You have given us a new identity and welcomed us into the body of Christ.  
But too often we allow our past to hold us hostage  
and are reluctant to welcome the new life you offer.  
Forgive us for considering ourselves unworthy of your love.  
Remind us of our belovedness, evidenced in baptism,  
so that we may live joyfully as your people,  
claimed in the waters of promise. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Acts 10:34-43

Kyle Caudle

Leader: Friends, God's favor is impartial; God's love knows no boundaries.  
Receive the forgiveness of your sins through the extravagant love  
of God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Let us live as those who have passed through the waters of baptism:  
forgiven and freed from the sting of sin and death,  
raised to walk in the Jesus way of peace and reconciliation.  
May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*(Please share these words of peace with those around you.)*

**ANTHEM: *I Will Be a Child of Peace*****E. Hagenberg****Sanctuary Choir**

O Holy Father,  
I will be a child of peace and purity,  
for well I know Thy hand will bless  
the seeker after righteousness

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****Olena Withrow****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: "Leaving Home: Underwater"****Emily Hull McGee****LITANY OF COMMISSIONING****Rayce Lamb and Nikki Byers**

Leader: Through the gifts of the Spirit, God calls leaders of all kinds  
within Christ's church to serve as deacons.

**Congregation: All ministry emerges from the life, death, and resurrection  
of Jesus Christ. We celebrate that God is always calling us  
to join in this great work of Love in the world!**

Leader: Deacons, the church has prayerfully considered your gifts for ministry  
and has called you to be a deacon. Each of you has accepted this call  
as God's intention for your life. In light of your calling to this responsibility,  
do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ and commit yourselves to  
following in his way of Love?

Deacons: We do, God being our helper.

Leader: During your tenure as a deacon, will you seek the peace and unity of this  
church? Will you covenant to be present and faithful to our life together?

Deacons: We will, God being our helper.

Leader: Will you fully commit your life and gifts to sharing in the pastoral care  
and generous stewardship of our Beloved Community? Will you covenant  
to lead with courage and compassion?

Deacons: We will, God being our helper.

Leader: Do you, the members of this church, receive these sisters and brothers  
as deacons within the shared ministry of Christ's work of Love,  
and do you covenant to encourage and support them in the fulfillment  
of their responsibilities?

**Congregation: We do, God being our helper.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

J. Bell

Take, O take me as I am. Sum-mon out what I shall be;  
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

## THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ORDINATION PRAYER

Emily Hull McGee, Wally Cox

## CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

Rayce Lamb, Steve Loftis, Meredith Parker, Beth Sabbagh

Leader: Gracious God, we thank you for these servants whom you have called to be deacons in our beloved community. As we set them apart for this special ministry, we ask you to fill them with all the grace and courage needed to fulfill their responsibilities.

**All: Grant them boundless compassion for human needs, boldness in their servant leadership, and devotion to the well-being of your church, that together we may follow Jesus more fully in the way of Love.**

Leader: We thank you for Rayce Lamb, and for his response to your call to deacon ministry. May you fill him with all the good graces of your Spirit, that he may faithfully fulfill the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Hear us, O God, as we pray for your servant.**

Leader: We thank you for Steve Loftis, and for his response to your call to deacon ministry. May you fill him with all the good graces of your Spirit, that he may faithfully fulfill the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Hear us, O God, as we pray for your servant.**

Leader: We thank you for Meredith Parker, and for her response to your call to deacon ministry. May you fill her with all the good graces of your Spirit, that she may faithfully fulfill the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Hear us, O God, as we pray for your servant.**

Leader: We thank you for Beth Sabbagh, and for her response to your call to deacon ministry. May you fill her with all the good graces of your Spirit, that she may faithfully fulfill the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Hear us, O God, as we pray for your servant.**

Leader: Friends, we receive these new deacons, commissioned and ordained, as servant leaders in our life together, and we celebrate with thanksgiving the shared responsibilities for Christ's ministry which is ours as the church.

**All: We give thanks for these friends in Christ,  
and covenant to hold all our deacons in prayer as they serve you this year.  
We pray these things in the name of your son Jesus, our leader and guide.  
Amen.**

**\*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**

Cyrus Bush

*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 on our website, [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org).*

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

Amy McClure

**\*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: *Andante molto moderato***

H. Murrill

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SERVING TODAY

Acolytes: Annabelle McGee, Karly Parker

Crucifer: Kyla Caudle

Deacon of the Week: Cyrus Bush and Susan Welch

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.



## Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites you to donate canned goods (beans, peas, corn, etc.) to Una Bendición, which 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.

## Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gift for January is Beef Stew. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
ON FIFTH

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Leaving Home**

*Epiphany Worship at First Baptist on Fifth*

Writer Kelly Corrigan once said, “life happens when you leave the house.” Life surely happens, and often it happens not just when you leave the house, but when you leave home. Journeying away from what’s known and familiar is a common experience, even if disorienting and unclear. This Epiphany at First on Fifth, we’ll explore what *life* happens when we leave home and what *light* we find along the way, drawing our imagination from God who left home to dwell among us in Jesus, and Jesus, who calls us to “come and see.”

January 18

*Leaving Home: Come and See*  
John 1:29-42

January 25

*Leaving Home: Follow Me*  
Matthew 4:12-23

February 1

*Leaving Home: Required*  
Micah 6:1-8  
Communion Sunday

February 8

*Leaving Home: Repaired*  
Isaiah 58:1-9a

February 15 | Transfiguration Sunday

*Leaving Home: Fearless*  
Matthew 17:1-9

**Sign-Up for Text Alerts!**

As winter weather rolls in, we want to make sure we are able to communicate effectively in the event of emergency updates. Text “first” to (336) 703-9745 to opt-in for text updates.

**January 11 | Deacon Ordination & Installation**

Today in worship, we joyfully install and ordain eight new Deacons to the work of servant leadership in our church. The Deacons extend care and connection with our members and cultivate the spiritual well-being of the church.

**January 19 | Youth and Kids Ice Skating**

Youth, Kids, & Families are invited to an afternoon of ice skating on Monday January 19 from 1-4pm at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds (414 Deacon Blvd.). \$15 includes entrance and skate rental. Contact [kyle@firstonfifth.org](mailto:kyle@firstonfifth.org) for more information.

**January 20 | Devotional Classics Returns**

Tuesday Morning Devotional Classics will return on January 20 with a study of Brother Lawrence’s The Practice of the Presence of God. The group is led by Pastor David and meets in the Commons on Tuesday morning at 7:30am. All are welcome to join us! Find a link to the specific edition of the book that will be used in your newsletter.

**January 20 | Trivia Tuesday**

Are you full of “useless” knowledge? Great! Come be a part of a young adult trivia team at The Dutch Light. We’ll meet at 6:50pm and trivia starts at 7pm.

**January 25 | Churchwide Sunday School**

You are invited to join a special churchwide Sunday School gathering on January 25! We hope you will join us as we share memories and hopes as part of 100 on Fifth: Home in the Heart of the City celebration. Together we remember the stories that built this place and renew our calling to build the church for generations to come. This gathering is all-ages friendly!

**January 27 | Quarterly Church Conference**

As is our custom, we will gather by Zoom to do the regular business of the church for our Quarterly Church Conference on Tuesday, January 27, at 6:30pm. See the newsletter that week for more info!

**January 29 | Older Adult Lunch**

The Active Retirees will meet for lunch on Thursday, January 29, at 11:30 at Southern Family Restaurant. Please sign up in your newsletter. Be sure to join us for a great time of food and fellowship!

**February 1 | Kids Cooking Class**

Children and their families are invited to join us for a cooking class at BrennerFIT kitchen immediately following worship on Sunday, February 1. Our very own Melissa Dellinger works with BrennerFIT and will lead our class. The cost is \$5/person and space is limited to the first 40 people. Sign up in your newsletter.

**Wednesdays @ 6:30 | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**

Any who are interested in joining the Sanctuary Choir are welcome to join as we enter the new year of music making and worship! The choir, led by David Williamson and Jake Hill, rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45pm in the choir room. Now is a great time to join us! For more information please contact David at [david@firstonfifth.org](mailto:david@firstonfifth.org).

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, January 11

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*)  
12:00 pm Leadership Orientation (*Kelly*)

MONDAY, January 12

6:00 pm Leadership Council (*Conference*)

TUESDAY, January 13

7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Commons*)  
9:30 am Staff Workday (*offsite*)  
5:00 pm Nominating Committee (*online*)  
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, January 14

5:30 pm Chancel Ringers Handbell Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)  
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, January 15

10:00 am Downtown Walking Group  
6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team (*online*)

FRIDAY, January 16

SATURDAY, January 17

SUNDAY, January 18

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*)  
12:15 pm Pastoral Care MT (*Conference Room*)  
12:30 pm Missions Committee (*Baraca*)

## OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

## CHURCH STAFF

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FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH