



“The great empires of the world, as Napoleon said in a moment of candor, depend on force. They have come and gone; and the ones that now exist will follow in their turn. They make fear and death their weapons, and they themselves die when the fear they have generated turns into violent rebellion.

Jesus, at his ascension, was given by the creator God an empire built on love. As we ourselves open our lives to the warmth of that love, we begin to lose our fear; and as we begin to lose our fear, we begin to become people through whom the power of that love can flow out into the world around that so badly needs it. That is an essential part of what it means to follow Jesus. And as the power of that love replaces the love of power, so in a measure, anticipating the last great day, God’s kingdom comes, and God’s will is done, on earth as it is in heaven. We will not see the work accomplished in all its fullness until the last day. But we will, in following Jesus, be both implementing his work and hastening that day.”

+ N.T. Wright

Festival of Lights, John August Swanson

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 17, 2026 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Come Away to the Skies*

Jacob Hill, Organ

arr. G. Shearing

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 47: 1-2, 5-7

David Williamson

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**All: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.**

Leader: God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**All: Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

Leader: For God is the king of all the earth;

All: Let us sing to God a joyful hymn of praise.

*HYMN 219: *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

LLANFAIR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy McClure

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.

ANTHEM: *Bright Canaan*

arr. Parker/Shaw

Sanctuary Choir

O who will come and go with me, I am bound for the land of Canaan. I'm bound
fair Canaan's land to see, I am bound for the land of Canaan. O Canaan, bright
Canaan, I'm bound for the land of Canaan. O Canaan, it is my happy home, I am
bound for the land of Canaan. I'll join with them who've gone before, Where sin
and sorrows are no more. Our songs of praise shall fill the skies, and higher still
our joys they rise. O Canaan, bright Canaan, I'm bound for the land of Canaan.
O Canaan, it is my happy home, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Jesus has ascended to heaven to prepare a home for us,
and welcomes all people to follow him.
The good news of repentance and forgiveness
is to be proclaimed in his name,
restoring every broken relationship.
Therefore, let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**All: Merciful God,
you forgive all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.
Forgive us and draw us ever nearer to your compassionate heart.
When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you,
assure us of your abiding presence and gift us with your Spirit,
through the grace of Jesus, our risen Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Ephesians 1:15-23

Karen Lefler

Leader: Friends, our hope is in the One who has ascended
into heaven and now reigns above every authority or power.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: In sharing the peace of Christ with one another
we bear witness to the possibility of restored relationships
wherever repentance and forgiveness are practiced.
Let us share the sign of a forgiven people:
May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*HYMN 581: *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 24:44-53

Emily Hull McGee

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *"You are Witnesses"*

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 443: *Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know*

HENDON

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 Stewart

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. 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

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Kyle Caudle

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

*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: *Phoenix Processional*

D. Locklair

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes and Crucifer:</u>	Elvie Cox, Faye Strollo, Jacob Patrick
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Linda Stewart and Karen Lefler
<u>Greeters:</u>	Julie Hall and Dean Culler
<u>Safety Team:</u>	Beth Sabbagh, Jeff Kessler
<u>Streaming and Sound Team:</u>	Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Amber Myers, Meredith Parker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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. 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

To access the listening assist system please, scan the QR code to download the Listen WIFI 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

Graduates

Norah Knight

Mount Tabor High School
Daughter of Jill & Gary Knight

Aliah Sabbagh

Mount Tabor High School
Daughter of Beth Sabbagh

Michaela Sabbagh

Mount Tabor High School
Daughter of Beth Sabbagh

Maria Price Baxley

North Oconee High School
Granddaughter of John and
Nancy Baxley

August F. Blain

Mt. Tabor High School
Son of Ryan & Christy Blain

+++

Nathan Towles

Appalachian State University
Son of Kim and Chris Towles

Jordan Sabbagh

Appalachian State University
Daughter of Beth Sabbagh

Rebekah Sabbagh

UNC, Charlotte
Daughter of Beth Sabbagh

SSG Rachel DeMars

New Hampshire University
Daughter of Holly and Jeff
Kessler

+++

Mallory Challis

*Wake Forest University School of
Divinity, MDiv*

Tanner Knox

Wake Forest University
MA, English

Isabelle Hinson

Purdue University
MS, Engineering

Tyler Hinson

Purdue University
MS, Artificial Intelligence and
Policy

Annie Winkelman

Yale University
MM

+++

Amy McClure

*Campbell University Divinity
School, DMin*



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resurrection Has a Place

Eastertide Worship at First Baptist on Fifth

If Lent gave us the experience of displacement, Eastertide places us once again in the truth that “resurrection has a place.”

May 24 | Pentecost Sunday
Keep Church Weird
Acts 2:1-21

May 31 | Trinity Sunday
Matthew 28:16-20
Amy McClure, proclaimer

May 31 | Churchwide Picnic

Come one, come all to our churchwide celebration picnic on Sunday, May 31! We'll gather at Leinbach Park from 5:00-7:00pm. The church will provide meat, veggie wraps 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!

Deacon Recommendation Forms Due May 31

All active members of First Baptist on Fifth should have received a letter in the mail this week, asking you to recommend a slate of eight deacons for their consideration and election to serve in the 2027-2029 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. 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 31** or using the link in your newsletter, you may submit a form on-line. Thank you for your participation in recommending these beloved friends to the service of Deacon!

Church T-Shirts

New Church T-shirts are here! Grab your choice of color for just \$15. Whether you wear it to a church event, community gathering or around town, it's a fun way to represent First on Fifth. You can pay via check, cash or card. See Mary to purchase!

Church Recipe Book Check-in!

We are hard at work on our new church recipe book. There was some necessary changing of hands of recipes. To be sure we include your recipe please email Mary with the names of the recipes you submitted. We want to be sure we don't miss anyone's submission. Thank you!

Summer Supper Clubs

The Fellowship Ministry Team is excited to host our Summer Supper Clubs! Please fill out the form by May 18. Groups will be formed randomly; the goal is that you will be with people you might not know well and that friendships will form and strengthen by the end of the summer. We hope each group will meet once a month through the summer. Each group will decide all the details for their meetings including time, place, meal, etc. Sign up in your newsletter.

Blessing Lena Withrow

Throughout the month of May, there will be a note-writing station set up in the Commons for you to write a note for Lena of appreciation and prayer. If you'd prefer to mail your letter, please send it to the church house and make sure it arrives before May 31. Thank you for your part in blessing our beloved Lena as she goes!

June 7 | Youth v. Young Adults Kickball Game

On June 7th, the Youth will take on the Young Adults in an epic game of kickball. This event will take place after church from 12:30 PM-3:30 PM at Hanes Park. We will be honoring our recent high school graduates and enjoy a bit of friendly competition. There will be pizza, cake and refreshments provided. You won't want to miss this so sign up today!

June 13 | Mark Your Calendar: WS Pride

More information coming soon about how you can be a part of Pride festivities! You'll want to be a part of this colorful day!

June 14 | IAF Founding Assembly

The Missions committee invites you to join with hundreds of leaders for the IAF Founding Assembly to present our community power organization publicly and announce our inaugural campaigns on Education, Housing, and Mental Health. Read more and register at the link in your newsletter. Contact Kyle or Linda Jones with questions.

Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites you to donate Breakfast Cereals and Chicken Bouillon Cubes 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 gifts for May are Baked Beans. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, May 17

- 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*)
- 12:15 pm Graduate Sunday Lunch (*Kelly*)
- 12:30 pm Deacons Meeting (*Baraca*)

MONDAY, May 18

- 6:00 pm Leadership Council (*Commons*)
- 7:00 pm Young Adult Team (*online*)

TUESDAY, May 19

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Commons*)
- 5:00 pm Finance Committee (*Conference*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, May 20

- 11:00 am Staff Meeting (*Conference*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, May 21

- 8:00 am BJC Small Group (*Commons*)
- 10:00 am Downtown Walking Group (*offsite*)

FRIDAY, May 22

SATURDAY, May 23

SUNDAY, May 24

- 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*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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