



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17, 2023

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Xan Morgan

## PRELUDE

*Praeludium in D Major, BuxWV 139 (Excerpt)*

Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637-1707, German)

## \*INVOCATION

(\*If you are able, please stand)

Alexandra DaSilva

## \*HYMN 166 (1-3, 5)

All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

*SINE NOMINE*

## \*THE PSALM

Psalm 34:1-3, 5, 8

Alexandra DaSilva

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise will ever be in my mouth.

**All: I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice.**

One: Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord!

**All: Let us exalt God's name together!**

One: Look upon God and be radiant; do not let your faces be ashamed.

**All: Taste and see that the Lord is good. Happy are they who put their trust in God.**

## \*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## EPISTLE READING

Romans 14:10-12

Alexandra DaSilva

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG (see insert)

God Be in My Head

*LYTLINGTON*

## TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

## BLESSING OF RISING YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS

Valerie Francia

**Congregational Response: We rejoice in you and commit to praying for you, listening to you, and celebrating your life in our church. May the Holy Spirit fill you and empower your life among us. You have so much to contribute here, and you are dearly loved.**

(Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School.)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Paul Simpson Duke

Lord's Prayer ("debts") on hymnal page 896

**ANTHEM***Climbin' Up the Mountain*

- Wm. Henry Smith

Climbin' up the mountain, children, didn't come here for to stay,  
If I never more see you again, goin' to meet you at the judgment day!

Moses went down into Egypt land, he told old Pharoah  
That the good Lord sittin' on His heav'nly throne,  
Said, "Let my people go." Good Lord, let my people go.

Daniel in the den of lions, he did begin to pray,  
And the Angel of the Lord locked the lion's jaw.  
That sho' was a mighty day, Good Lord. Sho' was a mighty day.

Children in the fiery furnace, they did begin to pray,  
And the Angel of the Lord put the fire out.  
That sho' was a mighty day, Good Lord. Sho' was a mighty day.

**\*GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 18:23-34

Paul Simpson Duke

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!****SERMON***The Long Letting Go*

Paul Simpson Duke

**SILENT REFLECTION****OFFERING OF GIFTS***Think on These Things*

- Beth A. Elston

Whatever is true, whatever is lovely, think on these things.  
Whatever is good, pleasant and holy, think on these things.  
*Fix your thoughts on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is love, he is beauty and light.*  
*Whatever is worthy of praise is of God.*

Whatever is just, whatever is righteous, think on these things.

Whatever is pure, noble and faithful, think on these things. *Refrain*

Oh Lord, I will sing of your goodness and tell of your unfailing love.

You reign in splendor and majesty. May your name be blessed forever and ever.

Whatever is kind, whatever is gentle, think on these things.

Whatever is right, patient and gracious, think on these things. *Refrain*

**\*HYMN 408**

The Gift of Love

*GIFT OF LOVE***\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.****BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Praeludium in D Major, BuxWV 139 (Excerpt)*Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637-1707, German)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
are honor of the many international relief agencies and workers  
helping those who need help.*

*~ Betsy Foote and Tom Gebhardt ~*

We pray for Mary Gregg, Christina Alaniz, Eva Kelly, Jill Damon, Betty Gerstler, Mary Margaret Hatt, Marilyn Marsh, Esther Floyd, David Gregg, Grange Burnside, Mrs. Essie Slaughter, Robin Sitten, Marjorie Minor, Simona Butler, John Rowe, Fay Key, and Jackie.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR**

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The Reverend Dr. Paul Duke, *Pastor*

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Valerie Francia, *Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Coley Roberts, *Children's Choir Director*

Kate Gregg, *Nursery Caregiver*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*

**We're glad you're here!** Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.



You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.

Church service hearing aids are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Join us for refreshments after worship in the fellowship hall. We look forward to connecting with you!

**Children's Ministry.** All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant through 3 years). Children (through 5th grade) leave for Church School following Time as Children. Children's Choir (PreK-5th grade) meets from 11:30-noon. You may pick up your children at 11:30 from their Church School classrooms, at 12:00 from the choir room, or at the end of 2nd Hour programming (12:30) back in the classrooms. If you would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org)

**Youth (grades 6-12)** are invited to join adults for Fellowship Time following worship and then head down to the Youth Room (directly underneath the Sanctuary) for Youth Group, 11:30a-12:30p. All youth grades 6-12 are invited to enjoy snacks, play pool, and discuss their faith together. We're beginning a study based on Rachel Held Evans' book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Learning to Love The Bible Again*. If you would like more information about Youth Ministry, please connect with Valerie Francia (valerie@fbca2.org).

**Children's Choir** for kids in Young 5's through 5th grade begins today! Coley Roberts and Heather Reed look forward to meeting with the children each Sunday from 11:30-12:00 in the Children's Choir room in the Children's Ministry wing. Kids may be picked up from the choir room at noon or they can head to our supervised play space until 12:30 when adult and teen formation classes end (12:30p). We are looking forward to a year of fun faith formation through song!

**New Adult Formation Class.** The new church programming year begins today. All adults are invited to a new series of discussions, based on some of the important commitments that define our church. As most of you have seen, a large sign just inside the East Washington entrance has the heading "We Seek To," and then lists ten of our commitments. The first of these is to Follow Jesus. The other nine name particular components of how we seek to do this as a church community.

The new Adult Formation series is called "We Seek To...," and will focus on various aspects of three of the nine, beginning with: "Respect All People." The sessions are bound to be illuminating and inspiring. Please join us!

**Sunday Morning Ministry Tasks.** We invite you to join us in making Sunday mornings at FBCA2 happen! Every so often, we have a Sign-up Sunday to share what ministry needs there are and to

invite you to indicate when you're available to serve in this way and last Sunday was one of those days. We still have ministry spots to fill! Connect with Xan Morgan at a ministry station after church to sign up. We'll use the information we gather today to update our online signups which are always available at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect). Thank you for being partners with us!

**Blessing of the Animals.** Join us for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals on Sunday, October 1st at 4:00p at Burns Park. Bring your pets for a special blessing! Alternatively, bring a picture of your pet to be blessed. We'll have Washtenaw Dairy donuts, Starbucks coffee, and pup cups, too! You're invited to bring donations of pet food for Pet Pals Mutual Aid.

**The Gathering is our campus ministry on Tuesday nights from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.** It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Paul Duke ([psduke718@gmail.com](mailto:psduke718@gmail.com)).

**Join us for Midweek Bible Study!** The group will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the memorial lounge. They continue to study the Gospel of Luke, led by Dr. Astrid Beck.

**Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series** begins the season of its 11th year on Friday, September 29, at noon. The "Organ" concert will feature organ music from Poland, Czech, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. It will be a great opportunity to hear music by composers, whom we do not get to hear often, such as Mieczysław Surzyński, Einar Traerup Sark, Oskar Lindberg, Sverre Eftestol, Jiří Střejček and Bent Lorentzen. Our guest organist Józef Kotowicz teaches organ and improvisation at the Fryderyk Chopin Music University in Białystok, Poland and is often invited to play in festivals in the countries which will be featured in the concert and many others. This is a free concert and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors.

Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code to the right.



## Calendar

September 17	Youth and Adult formation classes and Children's Choir begin!
September 19	The Gathering @5:30p
September 20	Bible Study @1:00p
September 21	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
September 23-24	Youth Overnight Retreat at Howell Nature Center
September 29	Ad Libitum Concert @12:00p
October 1	Children's Ministry Team Meeting @ 12:30 Blessing of the Animals @ 4:00p