



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

On The Occasion of
Paul Simpson Duke's Retirement
June 16, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, worship the changeless God

Many: whose steadfastness is sure and whose mercy is everlasting!

One: Come, worship the ever-present God

Many: who makes a home among and within and between us!

One: Come, worship the wise and loving God

Many: who sees our needs, hears our cries, and knows what
our hearts are feeling this day!

One: Come, worship and give thanks.

All: God is in our midst!

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Johann Walter

*INVOCATION

Arthur Francis

(*If you are able, please stand)

*HYMN 117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 67

Cat & Lex DaSilva

One: May God be gracious to us and bless us.

Many: May God's own face shine upon us.

One: Make your way known on earth,

Many: may the nations know your saving power.

One: Let the people praise you, O God;

Many: let all the peoples praise you.

One: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;

Many: for you judge the peoples with equity.

One: Let the people praise you, O God.

Many: Let all the people praise you.

One: God, our God, has blessed us!

All: May God continue to bless us!

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

PRESENTATION FROM AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES, MICHIGAN

Rev. Ed Owens, Associate Regional Minister Central Area, ABC of Michigan

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 43:18-19

James Mast

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG I'm Goin' a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing

(Hymnal 333; verses: sing then dance)

I'M GOIN' A SING

TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

(Children are invited to come forward and then head to Summer Children's Ministry upstairs.)

LITANY OF SEPARATION THAT CALLS US TO NEW LIFE (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Robbie Stapleton

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

ANTHEM

The Call

- Z. Randall Stroope

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a way as gives us breath; Such a joy as none can move,

Such a truth as ends all strife, Such a love as none can part,

Such a life as killeth death. Such a heart as joys in love.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a light as shows a feast,

Such a feast as mends in length,

Such a strength as makes his guest.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:14-21

Alicia Stevers

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Beyond All We Can Imagine

Paul Simpson Duke

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING OF GIFTS

For This Good Company

- Jean Berger

For this good company, Good God, we give thee thanks.

For those with whom we share a spoken trust,

For those who challenge us to speak,

When we could be content with silence.

For this good company, Good God, we give thee thanks.

Whom circumstance brings near,

For those we count in brotherhood.

For this good company, Good God, we give thee thanks.

***DOXOLOGY** (Hymnal 95) Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100TH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN 383** (stanzas 1-4) This Is a Day of New Beginnings

BEGINNINGS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL POSTLUDE

To commemorate this special occasion, we'd like to take a picture of all who are gathered. At the conclusion of the postlude, please join the choir up front.

Following the photo, Pastor Paul will meet you at the reception
in the Fellowship Hall.

We pray for Bob Reynolds, Rob Snyder, Mervyn Juchartz, David Gregg, Esther Floyd, Betty Gerstler, Marilyn Marsh, Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, John Milbourne, Peg & Joe Bradford, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, the McLeod family, Mike Kelly, Beth Granberry, Grange Burnside, the Sanford family, John Rowe, and Fay Key.

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in recognition of
Pastor Paul's 23 years of service to the First Baptist Church Community
and in gratitude for his sharing the gospel, love, and compassion to all he served.
There are no words to express our gratitude. He will truly be missed!*

Our Prayers of the People today include words written and prayed by Rev. Stacey Simpson Duke. Our Call to Worship & Litany of Separation that Calls Us to New Life are from *Transformed by Pastoral Transition* by Rev. Marcia B. Bailey

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.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a reception in honor of Pastor Paul's retirement! We'll give Paul his retirement gift from the church family and enjoy a picture slideshow and treats from Afternoon Delight. We will not be having a receiving line; please greet Paul during the reception.

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) upstairs. Children through 5th grade, leave for Summer Children's Ministry following Time as Children in the Play Space upstairs and should be picked up after worship. If you are visiting and would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

Youth (grades 6-12) during second hour is done for the 2023-2024 school year, but we have some activities planned for the Summer. If you would like more information about what's coming up for Youth Ministry or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Valerie Francia (valerie@fbca2.org).

Shin-Ae Chun is away visiting family. We welcome **Alice van Wambeke** to the organ this morning. Alice Van Wambeke is recently retired from St. James

Episcopal Church in Dexter where she served as organist and choir director for the past twenty-four years. She is currently an organ substitute locally and serves as an accompanist for Ann Arbor Public Schools. She received a Master of Organ Performance at Eastern Michigan University studying with Professor Eric Goldschmidt, and harpsichord study with Professor Emeritus, Edward Parmentier. Ms. Van Wambeke has performed as part of the Ad Libitum Concert Series, and will be playing fugues from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier as part of next year's Ad Libitum Concert Series at First Baptist Church. Shin-Ae will be back next Sunday.

FBC Ladies' Book Club. The next meeting of the FBC Ladies' Book Club is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th at 7 pm. We will be discussing *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Please contact Janice Stumpf with any questions. All ladies are invited!

Board and Staff Retreat. We look forward to gathering on Wednesday, June 26th from 5:00-8:00p to connect, reflect, and plan with all FBCA2 board members and staff. Our interim pastor, Rick Mixon (begins October 1) will be joining us! Dinner from Jerusalem Garden and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP at fbca2.org/connect. Questions? Connect with Robbie, our Moderator, or Xan Morgan, Director of Community Life.

Meet our Interim Pastor! We are delighted to announce that Rev. Dr. Randle (Rick) Mixon will be joining us on October 1 as our Intentional Interim Pastor. Rick is an ordained American Baptist minister with over 50 years of experience in pastoral ministry, church leadership, and social justice advocacy. He is a long-time member of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, in Oakland, CA, the church that ordained him in 1996 as the first openly LGBTQIA+ Baptist to be ordained. Rick has served as interim minister of three congregations, currently serves as Affiliate Professor of Pastoral Care at Berkeley School of Theology and is an emeritus board member of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Rick will be coming to visit

us and to preach on Sunday, June 30th. We hope many of you can be here to meet him!

Habitat for Humanity. This year FBC is joining with some 20 other churches to make a family's home ownership dream come true. As in the past twenty-three years, our support involves providing funds to buy the construction materials, volunteering and sometimes supplying lunches at the work site. **Our Friday workday is July 26th.** The FBC volunteers will work with another congregation to provide labor and perhaps lunches on workdays. If you wish to volunteer on other days, go to the Good News house website:

H4H.org/goodnewsgroup for home page and H4H.org/goodnewsvolunteer for signing waivers. Make your check payable to First Baptist Church and note on the memo line that it is the Good News Habitat Houses. For more information and to volunteer with our group, contact: Scott Diels (hscottdiels@gmail.com).

Sunday Parking in the Structure. The city public parking facilities have made an operational change to lower structure and lot gate arms on Sundays from now on. *Parking will still be free on Sundays*, but the gates will be down, and parking patrons will need to pull a ticket to enter the facility. When exiting parking, patrons will simply insert their parking ticket into the in-lane exit equipment, and the gate will go up. If the ticket is lost, a replacement fee will be imposed.

Summer Office Schedule. Starting this coming Friday, June 21, through to the end of August, the church office and buildings will be closed on Fridays.

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



Calendar

June 16-22	Church Camp for the Youth
June 18	Ladies Book Club @7:00p
June 26	Board/Staff Retreat @5:00p
June 30-July 3	Church Camp for Children and Youth CITs
July 14	Pizza in the Park after worship
July 18-20	Recharge Station during A2 Art Fairs
July 26	FBC Workday with Habitat for Humanity

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 East Washington Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2015

Telephone: 734/663-9376

Email: office@fbca2.org Website: fbca2.org

The Reverend Dr. Paul Simpson 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 Santini, *Nursery Caregiver*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*

Litany of Separation that Calls Us to New Life

Pastor Paul

Kids: We are all growing!

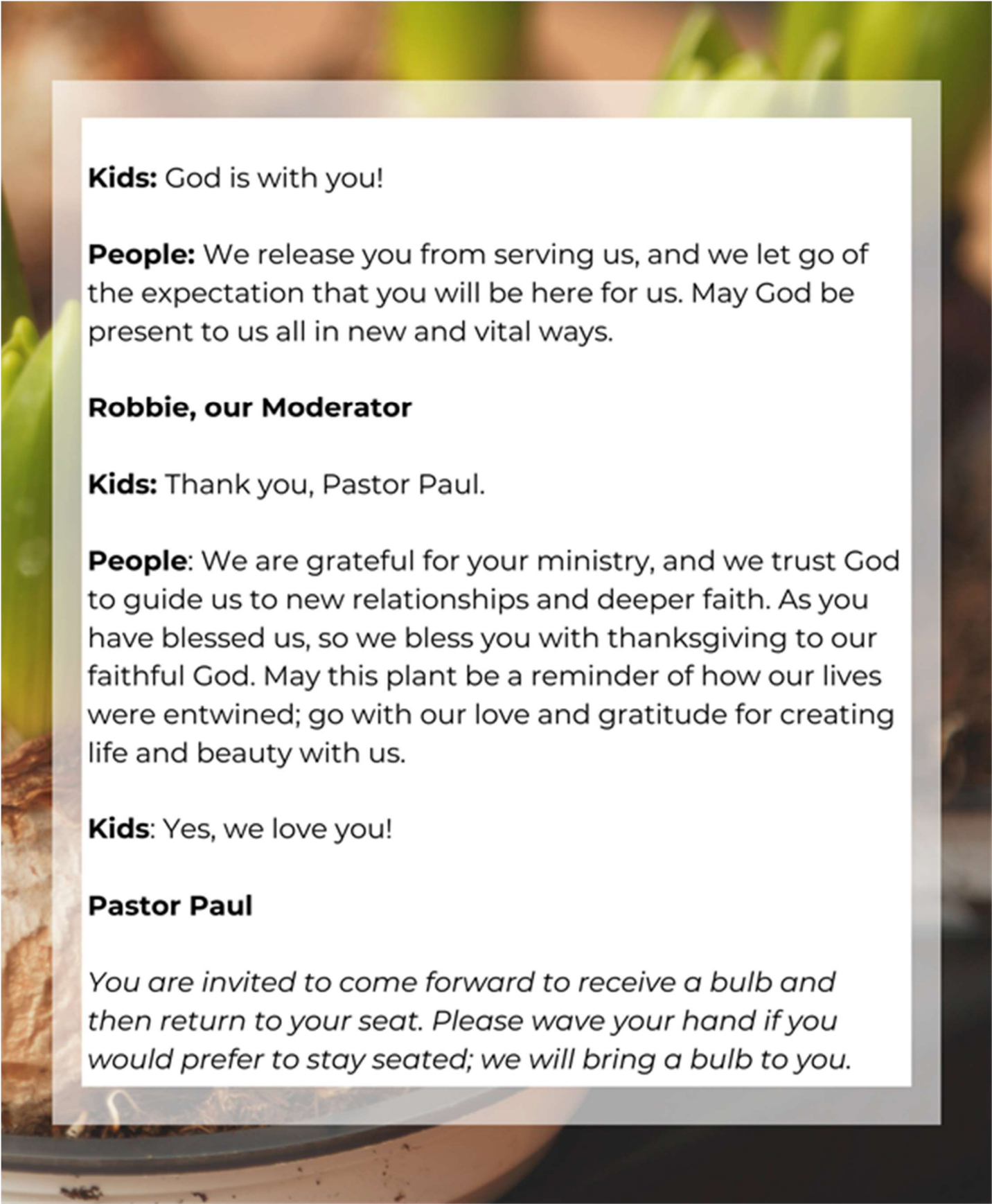
People: We have been encouraged by your spirit, inspired by your witness, comforted by your presence, challenged by your vision. Our lives have grown and matured together. Now as we come to part, we join you in this act of separation, freeing you to be planted in the new soil of your life, even as we are replanted on our own.

Pastor Paul

Kids: God is with us!

People: As you leave us, we release you from the responsibilities of nurturing our faith and promise to continue to encourage growth in one another. As we move forward, we let go of the connection that assumes your pastoral care of us. May God honor your faithfulness and care for you as generously as you have cared for us.

Pastor Paul



Kids: God is with you!

People: We release you from serving us, and we let go of the expectation that you will be here for us. May God be present to us all in new and vital ways.

Robbie, our Moderator

Kids: Thank you, Pastor Paul.

People: We are grateful for your ministry, and we trust God to guide us to new relationships and deeper faith. As you have blessed us, so we bless you with thanksgiving to our faithful God. May this plant be a reminder of how our lives were entwined; go with our love and gratitude for creating life and beauty with us.

Kids: Yes, we love you!

Pastor Paul

You are invited to come forward to receive a bulb and then return to your seat. Please wave your hand if you would prefer to stay seated; we will bring a bulb to you.