



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends, we gather this day to celebrate life -

Many: **the life we have been given by God,**

One: the life we share with one another in community,

Many: **the life that Jesus gives in abundance.**

One: Let us be grateful for the joy of life,

All: **and let us worship God.**

PRELUDE *Vater unser im Himmelreich, BuxWV 219* Dieterich Buxtehude
(Our Father in Heaven) (1637-1707, German)

*INVOCATION

Sara Barnes

(*If you are able, please stand)

*HYMN 101

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

DUKE STREET

*RESPONSIVE PSALM

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11a

Sara Barnes

One: There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

Many: **a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,**

One: a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,

Many: **a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,**

One: a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

Many: **a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,**

One: a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

Many: **a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.**

One: What gain have the workers from their toll? I have seen the
business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

All: **God has made everything suitable for its time.**

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

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

EPISTLE READING James 1:17-27 Sara Barnes

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG Spirit of the Living God *LIVING GOD*
(Hymnal 393)

TIME AS CHILDREN Xan Morgan
(Following Time as Children, kids through 5th grade will head to Summer Children's Ministry in the upstairs play space.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE David Gregg

ANTHEM *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.

SCRIPTURE READING Song of Songs 2:8-13 David Gregg

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Seasonality* David Gregg

SILENT REFLECTION

CALL FOR THE OFFERING David Gregg

OFFERING OF GIFTS *The Lone Wild Bird* - Frank DeWald

The lone wild bird, in lofty flight,
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight
And I am thine, I rest in thee.
Great spirit come, and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in thy hand,
The sea's dark deep and far-off land,
And I am thine, I rest in thee.
Great spirit come, and rest in me.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

David Gregg & Xan Morgan

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

The Bread *Jesu nostra redemptio* by Girolamo Cavazzoni

The Cup *Élévation* by Paul Benoit

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 557 (verse 1)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

BENEDICTION

David Gregg

POSTLUDE

It Is Well with My Soul

Mark Hayes
(b.1953, American)

We pray for Caspian Powdhar, Bob Reynolds, Rob Snyder, Roberta Hause,
Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Betty Gerstler, Marilyn Marsh, Janet Sanewsky,
Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, John Milbourne, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski,
Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Grange Burnside, the Sanford family, John
Rowe, and Fay Key.

Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog,
"Hold Fast to What Is Good". Used with permission.

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.



Transformed during Pastoral Transition. We are in a season of transition as our pastor retired on June 16th. Throughout the summer months, we will welcome guest preachers each Sunday. Today's guest preacher is Rev. David Gregg. If you are visiting today and would like more information about First Baptist Church, please reach out to Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org), our Director of Community Life. We have a pastoral care team in place for those seeking support; please connect with Kat Becker (office@fbca2org).

Our guest preacher today: The Rev. David Gregg, PhD, serves as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, leading the denominational region of over sixty churches to embody and proclaim the Heavenly Kingdom. David's doctorate is in Art and Theology. He grew up attending the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, where he began to understand how we might imaginatively and justly "justify the ways of God to" humanity, and so each opportunity to visit and to preach here is a deep source of gratitude and an honor.

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

Please join us for Fellowship Time under the Washington St. portico after worship. We'd love to connect 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) 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 Ministry (grades 6-12). 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).

Youth Group Retreat. All youth—rising 6th through 12th graders—are invited to a day trip to the beach in Saugatuck, MI on September 14. More details to come, but we're planning a fun day of swimming, boating, hiking, and beach volleyball. The group plans to leave from the church at 8:00a and return in the evening around 10:00p. Please let Valerie Francia (valerie@fbca2.org) know if you can attend!

The Gathering is our campus ministry on Wednesday evenings 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 Xan Morgan for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Janice Stumpf. The first Gathering will be on Wednesday, September 4, in the campus center living room.

Meal Trains. We have two opportunities to express our love and support for young families in our church community by providing meals over the next several weeks. Please use the Meal Trains found at fbca2.org/connect to sign up to provide either home-cooked meals or restaurant deliveries/gift cards. Delivery instructions and other details are in each Meal Train. **Christine Hwang and Jeff Withington's** baby, Mae Hwang Withington, arrived on Thursday, August 8th just after midnight. Please sign up to bring a meal or have one delivered to this new family of three. **Jackie Snyder-Powdhar** is now home following the early delivery of Caspian, who will be in the NICU for some weeks. Please sign up to provide meals for **Brandon, Jackie, and Niko** during this challenging time.

Our next Shared Suppers evenings are September 14 & 15. The Board of Care and Community sponsors this opportunity for our FBC Family to gather and get to know one another better. What better way to do that than around a table? We gather in smallish groups (6-8ish) in homes for Shared Suppers. If you are interested in being on the list of participants, email Mary Davis or stop by the Ministry Station at church to leave your name and email. Being on the list only indicates interest, not a commitment to come. You will be contacted for availability about two weeks before each supper.

Children/youth are welcome to participate. Shared transportation can also be arranged.

COME ONE COME ALL! The choir has openings for singers in every section. We have wonderful singers with us now, but we need to build each of our sections, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We have section leaders to help you learn your parts too! If you love to sing, or know anyone who does, can read some music (don't need to be an expert), want to worship God through music, desire to help the congregation sing the hymns more fully, and have lots of fun, you could be in the choir! I will admit it takes commitment though, but don't we want to give our best in the worship of the living God? We rehearse together each Thursday night from 7pm to 8:30pm. We sing around 120 pieces per season. We rehearse on Sunday mornings starting at 9:15am until the end of the worship service at 11:15am. We sing the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols Service from King's College, Cambridge. If you or anyone you know would like to join us, please let me know, come to a practice, see how you do, experience singing in the choir! You might find you love it and think, "why have I waited so long? This is GREAT!" You can see me on any Sunday after worship if you would like to chat about it! Think about it. Pray about it. Here is a famous quote from Shakespeare that I edited long ago: To sing or not to sing, there is NO question!!!! - Bonnie Kidd, Choir Director

The FBC Ladies' Book Club will next meet Tuesday, September 17th at 7pm to discuss Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea. We will meet at Mary Gregg's home. Please contact Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg with any questions. All ladies are welcome!

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



Calendar

September 2	Labor Day – Church office closed
September 4	The Gathering @5:30p
September 5	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p Executive Council @7:00p
September 8	Coming Home Sunday
September 14	Youth Group Retreat Shared Supper
September 15	Shared Supper
September 17	Ladies Book Club @7:00p
September 27	Ad Libitum Concert @12:00p

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Valerie Francia, *Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Christina Alaniz, *Nursery Caregiver*

Michelle Ding, *Children's Choir Director*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*