



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 13, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *The text says the man "was shocked and went away grieving." No kidding. I imagine he was shocked because he considered his wealth an asset — a symbol not only of his worldly accomplishments, but also of God's favor. How terrible to be told that his best credential, his trump card — was a liability and a burden. How grievous to realize that God's kingdom was not automatically for him — that he might not like it, or agree with its priorities, or find common cause with its inhabitants. How shocking to encounter a God who is so scandalously honest — a God who freely hands us reasons to walk away.*

Debie Thomas

GREETING

Xan Morgan & Rick Mixon

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the, Anishinabae people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Gwen Mills

One: What can we do that have life?

Many: We can seek God, who gives us life in every moment.

One: What can we do to serve justice in our world?

**Many: We can set aside that which keeps us
from following Jesus – wealth, pride, power, whatever.**

One: What can we do to share the good news with others?

**Many: We can open ourselves to the spirit,
so people can see God at work in us.**

PRELUDE *Jesu, meine Freude, Variations 5 and 2* Johann Gottfried Walther
(Jesus, My Joy) (1684-1748, German)

*OPENING PRAYER

Xan Morgan, Gwen Mills, Rick Mixon

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

*HYMN (see insert)

Come, Be Glad!

PORTOBELLO
Caribbean Folk Melody

REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD

Rick Mixon

Prayer of Reflection

Words of Assurance

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

CONGREGATIONAL SONG *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world
All the children everywhere, they are always in God's care
Jesus loves the little children of the world

TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

[Children are invited to come forward. Kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

ANTHEM

Treasures in Heaven

Joseph W. Clokey

Michelle Ding, soprano solo

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through and steal.
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,
For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

SCRIPTURE READING (NRSV)

Mark 10:17-31

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Letting Go

Rick Mixon

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

Now we return to God a portion of that with which we have been blessed.
In this moment and in this act, we pledge ourselves anew to responsible
stewardship of our financial resources, our time, our talent and of the good
earth we inhabit by God's grace.

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 after worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for coffee. We'd love to connect!

Pastoral Transition. Rev. Dr. Randle (Rick) Mixon began serving as Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor in October 2024. Rick is an ordained American Baptist minister with over 50 years of experience in pastoral ministry, church leadership, and social justice advocacy. He served as the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, California from 2006-2020 and has served as Interim Minister for four congregations over his career – Dolores Street Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA; First Baptist (now United) Church of Granville, OH; Fairview Community Church, Costa Mesa, CA, and Old Cambridge Baptist Church of Cambridge, MA. He is a long-time member of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, Oakland, CA, the church that ordained him in 1996 as the first openly LGBTQIA+ Baptist to be ordained.

Rick brings to First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor a passion for preaching the gospel of love, grace, and liberation, a commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community of faith, and a vision for engaging in prophetic witness and service in the world.

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 adult and youth formation classes. If you would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

Youth (grades 6-12) Youth Group's first Sunday is today during the Formation hour (11:30–12:30) in the Youth Room directly below the sanctuary. We have fun together, eat snacks, talk about our lives and explore some exciting Old Testament stories and their real-life justice implications. We also plan to have a couple interfaith experiences this semester, exploring the other Abrahamic faiths of Judaism and Islam. 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).

Seven Sins in Six Weeks! Adult Formation meets in the memorial lounge. We are focusing on *The Seven Sins of White Christian Nationalism* by Carter Heyward. Interim Pastor Rick Mixon will lead the conversation. Books will be available for purchase.

Wednesday Bible Study. Join us for Bible study this Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:00. Enjoy Rev. Dr. Rick Mixon leading along with good snacks, coffee, and fellowship as we receive the gift of God's living word. This week's scriptures are Job 42:1-6, 10-17 * Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) * Hebrews 7:23-28 * Mark 10:46-52

Blessing of the Animals. Join us this afternoon for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals on Sunday, October 13th at 4:00p. Bring your pets for a special blessing here at First Baptist! Alternatively, bring a picture of your pet to be blessed. We'll have Washtenaw Dairy donuts, cider, and pup cups, too! You're invited to bring donations of pet food for Pet Pals Mutual Aid.

Faith and Family Small Group. All Children's Ministry families are encouraged to mark their calendars for these upcoming monthly gatherings from 6-8p - October 18 and November 15. Lindsay and Chris Duke will be hosting the October 18th gathering at church. Please let the Dukes (labalash@gmail.com) know if you are able to attend. We'll have sitters there to play with the kiddos!

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 Pastor Rick Mixon. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Janice Stumpf, sign up at fbca2.org/connect, or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2).

The second concert on our AD LIBITUM Concert Series will celebrate J.S.Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 this Friday, October 18, at noon. This is the third and final part of performing all 24 pairs of Prelude and Fugue in 12 major and 12 minor keys. The program will feature Fugues nos.16-24 and more. Alice Van Wambeke, Gail Jennings and Shin-Ae Chun will join forces together and perform the fugues on organ, harpsichord and piano. It will be a unique experience to hear these fugues on three different keyboard instruments. It is a free concert and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!

Art Memorial Installation in honor of Rev. Dr. Stacey Simpson Duke. Stacey co-pastored First Baptist with her husband, Rev. Dr. Paul Simpson Duke from 2001 through 2023. She died on February 27, 2023 after living with Stage IV Leiomyosarcoma. Join us on Thursday, October 24th at 6:00p for a brief service to bless and install the memorial weaving created by artist Jenny Schu. Thank you to our Art Memorial Committee - Lucy Thompson, Grace VanderVliet, Kristin Reynolds, David Robbins, and Xan Morgan - for their leadership on this project.

Mission Action in Action: Hurricane Relief Match. The FBCA2 Board of Mission Action encourages the congregation to donate to the hurricane relief efforts for Hurricanes Helene and Milton and will be matching all gifts up to \$1,000. Donate by cash or check through the church and designate the funds for Hurricane Relief efforts. The church will donate funds through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Register to Vote. Voting can be a spiritual practice that invites us to learn about our communities and our country and take action to strengthen them. The voter registration deadline for Michigan is on October 21 for the general election on November 5. Make plans now to make sure you can vote! To check your registration, learn about who is on your ballot and find your polling place, visit vote411.org/michigan.

Sign Up for Altar Flowers. Want to help with flowers on Sunday? There are two ways to sign-up! You can add your name to the calendar posted downstairs in the hallway or at fbca2/connect. You can bring the flowers with you on Sunday morning or we can order them for \$50. A dedication will appear in the bulletin and the flowers are yours to take after the service.

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



Calendar

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| October 13 | Blessing of the Animals @4:00p |
| October 13 | Church Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day |
| October 16 | Bible Study @1:00p |
| | The Gathering @5:30p |
| October 17 | Choir Rehearsal @7:00p |
| October 18 | Ad Libitum Concert @12noon |
| | Faith & Family @6:00p |
| October 24 | Installation of Memorial Art @6:00p |

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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Website: fbca2.org

Rev. Dr. Rick Mixon, *Interim 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*

Christina Alaniz, *Nursery Caregiver*

Michelle Ding & Charlie Duke, *Children's Choir*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*