



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
November 24, 2024

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

---

**WORDS OF PREPARATION:** “The power of hope is made more palpable by the fragile circumstances of everyday life. A cancer diagnosis. The loss of job and home. A fight with friends or family. The rejection from a college. A divorce. The death of a loved one. But, often hope comes in small doses and flickering images. Signs that are fleeting and brief, and usually seem insignificant. Advent is a season in which we can cultivate a posture of waiting and watching with hope. It is hope that anchors us – it nourishes us, it sustains us, it keeps our eyes up.”

- Mihee Kim-Kort

## 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

*Great Spirit Prayer*

Deb Levine

(Translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887)

One: Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world. Hear us! We need your strength and wisdom.

Many: **Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever hold the red and purple sunset.**

One: Make our hands respect the things you have made and our ears sharp to hear your voice.

Many: **Make us wise so that we may understand the things you have taught our people.**

One: Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Many: **Help us remain calm and strong in the face of all that comes towards us.**

One: Help us find compassion without empathy overwhelming us.

Many: **We seek strength, not to be greater than our siblings, but to fight our greatest enemy: ourselves.**

One: Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

Many: **So, when life fades, as the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame.**

## PRELUDE

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
(Psalm 23)

Malcolm Archer

## \*OPENING PRAYER

Deb Levine

(\*Please stand in body or spirit)

## \*HYMN 379

*Let All Things Now Living*

*ASH GROVE*

## \*REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD

Responsive Litany of Thanksgiving

Xan Morgan

One: This is a time for giving thanks;

a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

**Many: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

One: Friends and family encourage and care,  
and this community shows us God's loving ways.

**Many: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

One: We find a home in God's creation  
and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

**Many: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

One: The seasons change, sunshine comes and goes,  
yet your loving care for us is eternal.

**Many: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Words of Assurance

Philippians 4:4-7

Rick Mixon

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

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

**TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

[Children are invited to come forward. Kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School after the Blessing of our gifts.]

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

Christina Alaniz

**BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS**

Robbie Stapleton

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rick Mixon

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

**ANTHEM**

*King of Glory*

T. Frederick H. Candlyn  
Michelle Ding, *soprano soloist*

King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee;  
And that love may never cease, I will move Thee.  
Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me;  
Thou didst note my working breast, Thou has spared me.  
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing Thee,  
And the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me,  
And alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me.  
Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise Thee;  
In my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise Thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll Thee:  
E'en eternity's too short to extol Thee.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (The Message)

Rick Mixon

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*Grace in Action: To a Thanksgiving People*

**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.

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*Almighty and Everlasting God*

*- Orlando Gibbons*

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities. And in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth Thy right hand to help and defend us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, Who Cares*

*OLD HUNDREDTH*

Text: Steve Gretz

Praise God, who cares for one and all  
The rich and poor, both great and small  
Grant us the grace to realize  
We ALL are precious in God's eyes.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

## \*HYMN 102

*Now Thank We All Our God*

*NUN DANKET*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Rejoice, The Lord Is King (DARWELL 148)*

Jason D. Payne

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Carol Stumpf on her birthday.*

*~ The Alaniz family ~*

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

We welcome **Gail Jennings** to the organ this morning. Gail retired from Bethlehem United Church of Christ after 31 years. She has played for the Ad Libitum Concert Series with violinist Andrew Jennings, professor emeritus, and last month she collaborated with Shin-Ae Chun playing the Well-Tempered Clavier (Book I).

**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!

**Decorating the Sanctuary** Advent is coming! Join in to decorate the sanctuary for the season. After worship today, grab a coffee, have some fellowship, then come back upstairs to hang the garlands, help put up lights or trees, and put out the Advent wreath. All ages welcome. No experience needed.

**Advent Devotionals** are available at the ministry station.

**Grace In Action: Reflecting God's Nature.** Today we wrap up our Stewardship Campaign for 2025. We have reflected together on how God generously puts grace into action, from homemaking to celebrating to bridge-building acts of mercy - and how we, children of God created in the image of God, can do the same. We invite you to join us in giving thanks for all the resources — spiritual, theological, physical, and financial — that support our work together. Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and commitment to God's work. You can make a pledge for 2025 online at [fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect) or with a pledge card (available at the Ministry Station). The Stewardship Team will be following up with folks we haven't heard from in the coming weeks with the goal to get a draft budget to the congregation ahead of our financial annual meeting. Questions? Connect with a member of our Stewardship Team: Toni Burton, Theodora Danciu, Martin Magers, Rick Mixon, Xan Morgan, and Robbie Stapleton.

**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](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)).

**Youth Group (grades 6-12)** meets Sunday mornings during the Formation hour (11:30am–12:3pm) 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 Christina Alaniz ([cnalaniz@umich.edu](mailto:cnalaniz@umich.edu)).

**Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community.** For over 15 years we have collected food, health, and household supplies for our friends in the Hikone housing community, one of the sites of Community Action Network. We only have three more Sundays to gather your donations – today, and December 1 and 8. We are providing for 30 families so please consider donating multiples of the same item and please donate individual family size quantities (e.g. 2 regular size jars of pasta sauce rather than one giant jar; 4 regular-size boxes of pasta rather than a giant bag, etc.).

- **Kid-friendly foods:** cereal, oatmeal, canned pasta, mac-and-cheese, fruit cups, etc.
- **Food that isn't usually available in the food pantries:** baking soda and powder, spices, sugar, cooking oil (12-16 oz), salad dressings
- **Financial donations:** Your financial donations are important! We have been buying all year when items are on sale and already have 30 laundry detergents, 30 packages of toilet paper, 30 bottles of toilet cleaner and dish detergent, and 30 boxes of garbage bags and 30 of many health and hygiene products. (take a peek on the stage) Your financial donations cover these purchases.
- **New or Gently used books for children and youth:** These are highly valued by the families to use as holiday gifts.

Bring your donations each Sunday through December 8. Please mail your financial donation to the church before December 8 or place it in the offering plate with a notation it is for Hikone. (Please address the check/envelope to Sue Ellen Glover, First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington, Ann Arbor 48104). **We need all donations by December 8** for delivery on December 10. Thank you for your generosity!

**There's Room in this Inn.** Join us on Sunday, December 1st from 4-6 pm for our annual advent event. Our activities this year will help us get ready to offer hospitality to our unhoused neighbors. We'll make cookies and muffins, string ornaments, tie blankets, wrap Christmas gifts, and decorate the space! We'll have dinner from Noodles & Company, too. We're looking forward to our time together; please invite your friends to join us! RSVP at [fbca2.org/advent2024](http://fbca2.org/advent2024) by Sunday, November 24! We are looking for volunteers to staff each station, join the kitchen team, and help with setup and cleanup. Do you have wrapping paper, curling ribbon, fabric ribbon, and/or shoe boxes to donate for the Advent Event? Please contact one of our coordinators, Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)) or Christina Alaniz ([cnalaniz@umich.edu](mailto:cnalaniz@umich.edu)) if you are able to help.

**Rotating Shelter - 9 volunteer spots to fill!** During the cold winter months, the emergency overnight shelter at Delonis is not sufficient for the need. Area congregations host a weekly rotating shelter to fill the gap, so no one is sleeping outside in freezing temperatures. Our week for hosting begins on the evening of Monday, December 2, and goes through Monday, December 9. There are 3 volunteer opportunities each night: 1 evening shift (6:30-10:00pm) and 2 overnight shifts (6:30pm-7:30am and 9:45pm-8:00am). The overnight volunteers will each take a hosting shift (4 hours) and a sleeping shift in the Memorial Lounge (4 hours). Are you interested in serving for the first time and want to be paired with someone who has done it before? Let us know and we will find you an experienced partner. Thanks for being a part of this important ministry as one of our concrete ways of loving our neighbors as ourselves. You can sign up at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect) or the Ministry Station in the hallway. Questions? Connect with Kevin Morgan ([ktmorgan@umich.edu](mailto:ktmorgan@umich.edu)).

**Wednesday Bible Study.** Join us for Bible study this Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:00pm. Pastor Rick leads the study which often includes good snacks, and always coffee and fellowship as we receive the

gift of God's living word. Bible Study will not meet on Nov 27 and will resume on Dec 4.

**The Gathering** is our campus ministry on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30pm. 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](http://fbca2.org/connect), or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2).

**Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series** presents "Celebrating Christmas with the World: with Stories and Carol Sing" on Friday, December 6 at noon. Arrangements of Christmas carols from different cultures by various composers will be performed by Shin-Ae Chun on the organ and the piano. Inspiring poems and stories will be read by Robbie Staple and Ed Parmentier. And we will also sing some carols together. This concert will be an opportunity for you to calmly prepare yourself for the hopeful and joyous season of Advent and Christmas. It is a free concert and open to all. Mark your calendar. Invite your friends and neighbors. Let's celebrate the season together.

**The FBC Ladies' Book Club** will next meet on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00pm to discuss Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan. We will meet at Madeline Drake's home. Please reach out to Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg with any questions. All ladies are welcome.

**Poinsettias for Christmas Eve.** Each year we decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias in honor/memory of those we love for the Christmas season. Poinsettias are \$20.00 each. The deadline to order is Monday, Dec 16. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you after the Festival of Lessons & Carols service on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias can be ordered online here, or you can use this form and drop it in the offering plate.

## POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services at \$20 each,  
and list as such in the bulletin:

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as payment for the poinsettia(s).

Please have paid orders to the office by Sunday, December 15.

Thank you!



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

November 24	Grace in Action: Reflecting God's Nature Stewardship Season wraps up Decorating of the Sanctuary @11:30a
November 28	Thanksgiving Day – Church Office & Buildings closed
December 1	Advent Workshop
December 2-8	Overnight Rotating Shelter
December 6	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00 noon
December 8	AB Women's Ministries Bake Sale @11:15a
December 10	FBC Ladies' Book Club @7:00p

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 East Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2015  
Telephone: 734/663-9376

Email: [office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org) Website: [fbca2.org](http://fbca2.org)

Rev. Dr. Rick Mixon, *Interim Pastor*  
Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*  
Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications*  
Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*  
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*  
Michelle Ding & Charlie Duke, *Children's Choir*  
Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*  
Kat Becker, *Administrator*