



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

5th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 9, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"Life goes on and we have lives to live. Yet, unrelenting, you refuse to leave us alone. You are, after all, a zealous God. You startle us from our reveries by gathering us into your dream time, into your Church. May we, thus gathered, be so inspired by your Spirit that our lives never tire, that we have the energy now to wait, to rest, in the goodness and beauty of your truth."*

Stanley Hauerwas, *Prayers Plainly Spoken*

GREETING

Rick Mixon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

John Krienke

One: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.

All: By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.

One: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

All: By faith we have the ability to share the good news.

One: We are God's children who are invited to dwell in Beloved Community.

All: By faith we will embrace our siblings in Christ.

One: Let us now lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving as we join together to worship the Holy One.

PRELUDE

Vater unser im Himmelreich
(Our Father in Heaven)

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733, German)

OPENING PRAYER

John Krienke

*HYMN 711 (stanzas 1,2,4 & 6) *For All the Saints*
(*Please stand in body or spirit)
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

SINE NOMINE

*SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-16, 12:1-2

Rick Mixon

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Open Our Eyes

OPEN OUR EYES

(see insert, Children come forward)

TIME AS CHILDREN Rick Mixon
(Following Time as Children, kids will head to church school.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rick Mixon
The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

ANTHEM *Covenant Prayer* Karen Marroli

Creator, we belong to you, and you dwell within our hearts.
Though the road be rough we will follow you with the strength
your grace imparts.
Though we be brought high, though we be brought low, though we journey
far from home,
Let us always seek to grow in love, no matter where we roam.
Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept, affirm, embrace
Every child of God throughout the world and shower them with grace.
And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God above
Through our acts of light and justice as we warm the world with love.
Creator, let us understand that our covenant with you is a covenant
with humankind
To honor and pursue the road of Christ, through the rocky fields, to the
broken and unshod.
Let us heal with love, for each soul we meet is a precious Child of God.
Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept, affirm, embrace
Every child of God throughout the world and shower them with grace.
And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God above
Through our acts of light and justice as we warm the world with love.

REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD Rick Mixon
Time of Reflection *Archetypes of Evolution* by Bruce Sanguin

***HYMN 140** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

SERMON *We've Come this Far by Faith* 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.

OFFERING OF GIFTS *Steal Away to Jesus* - arr. by Raymond Weidner

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.

Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain.*

Green trees are bending. Poor sinner stands a-trembling,

The trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain*

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above you heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*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 *Holy Manna* Charles Callahan
(1951-2023, American)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of
the volunteers who support the programs for children and youth at First Baptist
Church. Thank you for creating a space for kids to explore, grow, and belong.*

~ The VanderVliet family ~

We pray for Bob Reynolds, Rob Snyder, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther
Floyd, Betty Gerstler, David Lamkin, Becky Lepley, Marilyn Marsh, Dakota
Lawson, Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, John Milbourne, Greg DuBois, Cindy
Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Grange Burnside, and Fay Key.

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 after worship downstairs for fellowship time. At 11:20 we will begin our intergenerational congregational event, *Sharing Our Histories*, featuring a group of long-time members of our church family and more recent members who will share their reasons for coming to and staying with FBCA2, ending with a time of sharing for all.

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 1st grade leave for Children's Ministry 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 12:30 from the Playroom upstairs.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets Sunday mornings during the Formation hour (11:30am–12:30pm) in the Youth Room directly below the sanctuary. We have fun together, eat snacks, talk about our lives and explore some exciting stories from the Bible and their real-life justice implications. Feel free to contact Jillian with any questions at Jillian@fbca2.org. **Today, we will attend the *Sharing Our Histories* presentation in the fellowship hall.**

No Adult Formation Classes today. LJ Brazier's group will start back up on February 16, continuing a study of the Gospel of Mark looking at several sections and themes. LJ will bring some interpretive perspectives. Bring yours. The group usually meets in the lounge from 11:30a to 12:30p.

Transformed Through Transition. The Past: This week we have added twenty-three years to our "River of Life" posted in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. Starting with our 150th anniversary, we see four pastors leading this church to become a voice of social justice within the Ann Arbor community and the start of our relationship with Nicaragua. You are invited to engage through the questions posted as we continue to explore this congregation's long, rich history.

Transformed Through Transition: Living our Stories. Join us as we continue to explore who we are and plan for the next phase of life for First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor! Sign up to participate in one of several small gatherings, either Tuesday, March 4 (7:00-8:30p) or Sunday, April 6 (3:30-5:00p) to further examine the stories we tell here at First Baptist and what those stories say about us and our values. WE create the church we want to be! You can sign up online at fbca2.org/livingourstories, or in person at the Ministry Station at church. Questions? Connect with Robbie Stapleton or Paula Burton.

Mission Action in Action. As the desperation and devastation grows in Los Angeles, the Mission Action Board is challenging the church congregation to support a sister congregation (First Baptist Church of Pasadena) as they support the community, provide shelter for displaced families and provide much needed relief for those affected by the widespread blazes. Currently, this congregation's building has not been touched by the blazes, and FBC Pasadena is already active in the community helping with clean-up efforts and shelter. To view pictures and hear audio reflections of the work the people of FBC Pasadena are doing go to: www.fbcpasadena.com. The Mission Action Board will match the congregation's generosity up to \$1,000. So far, \$530 has been contributed. To learn more about this church and it's ministry, go to fbcpasadena.com. If you would like to contribute to our gift to FBC Pasadena, you can make checks out to First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor with "FBC Pasadena" written in the memo line. Thank you.

Join Us In Loving Our Neighbors! You are an important part of the hospitality we offer to our unhoused neighbors. We will be hosting the Daytime Warming Center for another four weeks (Feb 17-Mar 14). There are many ways to show love to our neighbors. We are hoping for a few more ingredients to be provided for our collective meal. And, you can purchase underwear and other items through an Amazon wishlist (fbca2.org/connect). Simply choose the items you would like to purchase and when prompted to choose the shipping address, click "First Baptist Church's Gift Registry Address." Items will be shipped directly to church. Questions? Please contact a member of our Here Anchor Team - Mary Davis, Tom Gebhardt, Sue Ellen Glover, or Carolyn Grapentine.

Youth Game Night: All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to join us at church on Sunday, Feb 9, 4:00-6:00p for an evening of fun and games! We will meet in the youth room and pizza/snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring your favorite board/card games! Email Jillian with any questions - jillian@fbca2.org.

Wednesday Bible Study from 1:00 - 2:00p. 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. We will be looking at Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-

40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; and Luke 6:27-38.

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, or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2).

Time for Restoration for Xan Morgan. Xan is on leave from February 2nd through March 2nd. She has prepared diligently so that ministry will continue as usual in her absence. Please be in contact with our interim pastor, Rick Mixon or office administrator, Kat Becker as needed.

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.

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



Calendar

February 9	Transformed Through Transition Fishbowl Event @11:20a Youth Game Night @4:00p
February 12	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @5:30p
February 13	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
February 16	AB Campus Foundation Meeting @12:30p
February 17-21	Daytime Warming Center Week #1

Interim Transition Team Update—You may have noticed there are numerous communications regarding our Transition process. Last Friday Janice Stumpf, Chair of Recruitment, sent out a communication about submitting names to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. The deadline for submitting names is Feb. 15. Also, in this week’s newsletter, we have provided ways to sign up for the small group in-home meetings regarding “Living our Stories”, phase II of the transition process. If you haven’t already done so, please take a moment to sign up at one of the ministry stations or on-line as indicated in the Newsletter. As a reminder, this is what helps us determine the church we want to be! Today we will hear from several more of our members during second hour. We are hoping you will make plans to join us for this important event. This is another part of transition used to help in creating the church profile that will be used during the search process. Thanks again to all who have shown interest and have stepped up beyond what we had hoped. A special thank you to the host groups who have agreed to welcome us into your home. These are exciting times, and “Living our Stories” is a way to celebrate our life at First Baptist Church!

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

Rev. Dr. Rick Mixon, *Transitional Interim Pastor*

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications and Childcare Supervisor*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

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

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*