



# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

3rd Sunday of Easter  
May 4, 2025

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**WORDS OF PREPARATION:** *Reclining at the breast of Jesus in prayers, periodically resting in Christ's heart – this sharpens our spiritual vision and helps us to recognize the nurturing presence of the Christ, even in the most routine and familiar circumstances of our over-busy lives. Feeding Christ's sheep is a tangible way of staying in relationship with the Christ, as well as the surest way to express our love for him 'not only with our lips, but in our lives.*

Gary D. Jones

## GREETING

Rick Mixon & Xan Morgan

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Smith

One: Now is the time to sing!  
to sing the good news of God:

**All: who awakens us with dawn's embrace,  
who surrounds us with joy and life.**

One: Now is the time to offer praise to God,  
in every place, with every voice:

**All: to rejoice in the One who leads us through each moment  
with a gentle hand and a word of hope.**

One: Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God,  
from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

**All: We will sing the good news of Easter!  
We will rejoice in the God who loves us.**

## PRELUDE: HARPSICHORD

*Sarabande*  
from *French Suite V, BWV 816*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750, German)

## OPENING PRAYER

Julie Smith & Rick Mixon

One: We thank you, Loving Friend, for encouragement  
and fellowship far beyond our dearest expectation.

Two: At morning, noon and night, you are perfect grace and joy.

One: You are compassion,

**All: our cup overflows.**

Two: You are our hope,

**All: our cup overflows.**

One: You are our truth,

All: our cup overflows.

Two: You are our life,

All: our cup overflows.

One: You are our freedom,

All: our cup overflows.

Two: You are our happiness,

All: our cup overflows.

One: At morning, noon and night, you are perfect grace and joy.

All: Holy and most wonderful is your name,  
far above all other names on earth or in heaven;  
and by your grace, holy is our gratitude,  
through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!

**\*HYMN 307**

*Christ is Risen*

*W ZLOBIE LEZY*

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

John 21:1-19 (NRSV)

Xan Morgan, Julie Smith,  
& 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**

*This Little Light of Mine*

*LITTLE LIGHT*

**TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

[Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School]

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rick Mixon

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

**ANTHEM**

*Kyrie from Missa Secunda*

- Hans Leo Hassler

Kyrie eleison

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christe eleison

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Kyrie eleison

*Lord, have mercy upon us*

## REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD

Xan Morgan & Rick Mixon

*Shepherd* by Bruce Sanguin

One: Tender God, we yield to your gentle guidance.  
Like a shepherd, you provide all that we need;  
you know when we should lie down and rest,  
and when we should rise up and be on the move.

All: Help us to trust the rhythms of the spirit;  
lead us away from compulsive action  
and the false peace of apathy.

One: You restore our souls.

All: We gaze into still waters and see ourselves clearly now:  
reflections of your image looking back with love.

One: You lead on the paths that are right for us  
and for the planet.

All: We trust your guidance.  
Even in the darkest valleys  
and most treacherous passes,  
the ground beneath us is firm  
and our confidence is great  
that you are with us.

One: You, Great Shepherd, the ground of our being,  
do not desert us. Our cup overflows with gratitude.

All: May our lives be filled with compassion and goodness:  
this is all you ask in return.

*Silence is kept for a time so that we might meditate, reflect, be still, draw closer  
to the holy, lift our own prayers of desire and recognition.*

Words of Assurance

\*HYMN (see insert) *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

*PESCADOR DE HOMBRES*

SERMON

*The Great Catch*

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

*Cast Me Not Away*

Robert J. Powell

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.  
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.  
O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouths shall show forth thy praise.  
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy spirit from me.

## \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

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

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rick Mixon & Xan Morgan

Unison Invitation to the Table

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff  
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Bread *Let Us Break Bread Together* by Dale Wood

The Cup *Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray* by Harald Rohlig

The Prayer of Blessing

## \*HYMN (Hymn 557, verse 1)

*Blessed Be the Tie that Binds*

DENNIS

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

## \*HYMN 381

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: HARPSICHORD

*Chaconne in F Major*

J.C.F. Fischer  
(1656-1746, German)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
in celebration of new life and lives well-lived.*

*~ The Alaniz family ~*

The rosebud on the lectern is in celebration of the birth of **Emma Bailey Santini** to Kate & Paul Santini on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

We pray for the family and friends of **Betty Gerstler** and **Janet Sanewsky**. We also pray for **Marlene Francis**, **Jon VanderVliet**, **Grange Burnside**, **David Gregg**, **Becky Lepley**, **Bob Reynolds**, **Rob Snyder**, **Roberta Hause**, **Mervyn Juchartz**, **Esther Floyd**, **Katherine Cartee**, **Chuck Suits**, **Lynda Berg**, **Marilyn Marsh**, **Pidgey Karolyi**, **Dakota Lawson**, **Bill Nummy**, **Helga Mortensen**, **Lindsay Grace**, **Greg DuBois**, **Cindy Okarski**, **Keith Maurer**, **Beth Granberry**, and **Fay Key**.

Today's Fellowship Offering will go towards the **Fellowship Fund** which provides for meeting emergency needs of those within our community. Please give generously.

\*Please stand in body or spirit

**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.** We'd love to connect!

**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 the end of the annual meeting.

**On the First Sunday of Each Month it's "S3 - Stay for the Service Sunday"** when the 2nd- 5th grade class will stay in worship for the whole service. This gives the kids an opportunity to experience and participate in the second half of worship. This is a valuable step in their faith formation as worshipers! They are invited to sit with Valerie Francia and their classmates during worship. Following worship, the 2nd-5th graders will attend Fellowship Time with their families until Children's Choir begins at 11:30.

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

**Adult Formation Classes.** LJ Brazier leads a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark looking at several sections and themes. LJ will bring some interpretive perspectives. Bring yours. The group meets in the lounge at 11:30a.

**You may have heard...we have some exciting news!** Finn Ray Mills and Emma Bailey Santini have arrived! Let's provide some delicious meals for both the Mills and the Santinis during their early weeks of bonding with their babies! Please sign up today at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect).

**We're looking forward to Children's Ministry Sunday on May 18th!** The kids will lead the prayers, share the Scripture readings, play music, and greet. We will have a rehearsal on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00-11:30 for children Young 5s through 5th grade. To help us plan, could you please take a moment to fill out the form that was sent by email this past week. We're looking forward to the kids leading worship!

**Transformed through Transition: FBCA2 Demographic Survey.** If you haven't already, please complete our FBCA2 Demographic Survey ([fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect)) by Sunday, May 4th. This survey will provide valuable demographic information for the Pastoral Search Committee and potential candidates for pastoral leadership for First Baptist. This survey may not cover every demographic possibility, but it does give a good "snapshot" of important aspects of this congregation's make up. Your responses are anonymous and optional. Please respond to the best of your ability. Thank you for your participation. Please submit one form for each member of your household.

**Transformed through Transition: Voices of the River.** As we continue to put together our Church Profile, to be used during our pastor search process, we have been creating avenues for you to share your thoughts. Most recently, during the Annual Program Meeting, the church family was asked to respond to three questions regarding future pastoral leadership. For those of you who weren't able to attend the meeting, you can share your thoughts using the electronic form ([fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect)). We ask that you complete the form by Sunday, May 4th.

**Sunday Morning Ministry Tasks.** We invite you, the church family, to help make Sunday mornings at FBCA2 happen! Please take a moment at the ministry station and indicate when you're able to read, greet, host fellowship time, serve communion, and/or provide flowers for worship. You can also always sign up online at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect).

**Wednesday Bible Study.** 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. This week we will be looking at Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; and John 13:31-35.

**Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series** presents a harpsichord concert "Goldberg Variations: Aria and Variations, BWV 988" performed by Shin-Ae Chun this coming Friday, May 9, at noon. Written for two-manual harpsichord in 1741 by J.S. Bach, the Goldberg Variations are full of new ideas over the same harmonic progressions and have been loved by many people. This concert is the third concert of the Baroque Art of Variation and Embellishment Series and will conclude the season of the AD LIBITUM Concert Series. It is a free concert and is open to all. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!



**FBC Men's Book Club** next meets on Wednesday, May 21, at 7:00p in the Campus Center Living Room at church. We will be discussing *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life* by Dacher Keltner.

**The FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club** will meet Tuesday, May 27th at 6:30pm at Janice Stumpf's house to discuss *H is for Hawk*, by Helen Macdonald. Please contact Janice or Mary Gregg if you have any questions. All ladies are welcome!

**American Baptist Women's Annual Conference June 13-15, 2025.** I want to encourage you to consider our Annual Conference at the DeWitt Retreat Center in DeWitt Michigan. It is a beautiful and peaceful setting! Our conference theme this year is Stronger Together. A weekend to cultivate Joy! We have two key speakers: Rev. Dr. Laura J. Hunt and Hon. Rev. Dr. Shannon Holmes. You may come for the full weekend or just Saturday. Our weekend includes workshops, small groups, spiritual gift reassessments, prayer, meditation and time for relaxing and fellowship. Please prayerfully consider this time for relaxation and renewal. -Carolyn Grapentine

**The Gathering** has finished for the semester and will resume in September. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pastor Rick Mixon. You can help with a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2).

**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](https://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code to the right.



### Calendar

May 7	Bible Study @1:00p
May 8	Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00p
May 9	Ad Libitum Concert at 12 Noon
May 18	Children's Ministry Sunday
May 21	FBC Men's Book Club @7:00p
May 26	Memorial Day – Church Office Closed
May 27	FBC Ladies Book Club @6:30p

**Search Committee Update:** This week the Pastoral Search Committee had our first official meeting together! We are excited to begin this work. We will periodically include updates like this in the bulletin, and we plan to keep you informed and hear from you in other ways as well as the search process unfolds. In this meeting, we got to know one another and set preliminary norms and roles for our work together. Each of us shared how our faith backgrounds and relationships to FBCA2 have come to inform the values, priorities, and skills we bring to the search process. On May 12 we will meet with the Interim Transition Team to discuss the church profile that we, as a congregation, have been building. This will become foundational for our work. We appreciate the trust you have placed in us and we are honored to serve among you in this way: LJ Brazier, Toni Burton, Bill Foster, DJ Reed, Gretchen Sanewsky, David Suell, Julie Smith.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR**

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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*