



# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
August 31, 2025

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**WORDS OF PREPARATION:** *"...our artists in moviemaking, songwriting, poetry, and yes, dancing, are preaching this mystery to us in spite of our obsession with facts and proof. They tell us of a God like the God who David knew....a God of mystery and delight and celebration, a God to be feared and worshipped, a God who showed us, like a mother, rules and guidelines for our own good on this earth. A God who has power over life and over death. A God who calls us to obey and calls us up from the dead, even death on a cross, and calls us, when we find ourselves in the presence of the mystery, to dance."*

Beth Birkholz

## GREETING

Rick Mixon

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rayna Garcia

*Psalm 150 from Psalms for Praying* Nan C. Merrill

One: Praise to the Beloved!

All: Praises be to You in earth's sanctuary;

One: praises be to You the almighty firmament!

All: Praise the mighty works of Love;

One: Praise the glory and extol the greatness of Love Divine!

All: Give praise with trumpets;

One: give praise with lute and harp.

All: Give praise with timbrel and dance;

One: give praise with string and reed.

All: Give praise with booming drums;

One: give praise with crashing cymbals.

All: Let everything that breathes praise the Beloved with their lives.

May it be so now and forever. Amen.

## PRELUDE

*Komm, Heiliger Geist, Herre Gott (Excerpt)* Mathias Weckmann  
(Come, Holy Spirit, Lord God) (c.1616-1674, German)

## OPENING PRAYER

Rayna Garcia, Xan Morgan, and Rick Mixon

**\*HYMN 62** (vv. 1-4) *All Creatures of Our God and King* *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*  
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

Exodus 15:19-21  
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Rayna Garcia & 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**

God Is So Good (v.1)

*SO GOOD*

(Children who are going into 5th grade and younger come forward.)

**TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

(Children head to Summer Children's Ministry on the 3rd floor.)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rick Mixon

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

**ANTHEM**

*Zion's Walls*

adapted by Aaron Copland

Come fathers and mothers,  
Come sisters and brothers,  
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.  
O fathers, don't you feel determined  
To meet within the walls of Zion?

We'll shout and go round  
The walls of Zion.

**REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD**

Rick Mixon

*You have made us for yourself, O God, and hearts are restless till they rest in you.*

- St. Augustine

A Time for Responsive Reflection

One: Before the earth was formed,  
we were chosen by God to be God's people.

All: God gathers us together that we might  
sing of joy and hope, as God's beloved.

One: Before the stars glittered in the night sky,  
we were chosen through Christ to be God's family.

All: Christ gathers us together that we might  
carol the good news of redemption.

One: Before the rivers flowed to the seas,  
we were chosen by the Spirit to serve creation.

All: The Spirit gathers us together that we might  
dance in the fields of peace with our siblings.



We pray for **Bob Reynolds, Jon VanderVliet, Becky Lepley, Adriane Moulton Headley, Rob Snyder, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Betty Doman, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Katherine Cartee, Chuck Suits, Lynda Berg, Marilyn Marsh, Dakota Lawson, Helga Mortensen, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Fay Key, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**

\*Please stand in body or spirit

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**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.



**Join us after worship for refreshments.** 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) upstairs. Children who have completed 4th grade and younger, leave for Summer Children's Ministry following Time as Children in the Play Space upstairs and should be picked up after worship. Next Sunday, our full Children's Ministry program kicks off for the school year! If you are visiting and would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

**Youth Group (grades 6-12)** during second hour is on break until the fall, but we have some activities planned for the summer. 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 Jillian (jillian@fbca2.org).

**Sunday Morning Ministry Tasks.** We invite you, our church family, to join us in making Sunday mornings at FBCA2 happen! Please take a moment to check out our signups at the ministry station in the hallway or online ([fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect)) and indicate when you're able to read, greet, host fellowship time, serve communion, and/or provide flowers for worship. Thank you for being partners with us!

**Join us for Coming Home Sunday on September 7th!** Our Board of Music & Arts friends will be offering a meaningful worship experience as we celebrate coming home. And our children's ministry classes will begin for the fall. After worship it will be time to party! Join us for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, and face painting, too. You won't want to miss this festive regathering of our community after summer travels and summer schedules. Youth Group and our Adult Formation class will begin the following Sunday, September 14th.

**Wednesday Bible Study.** Starting on September 3, the group will meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the memorial lounge. Pastor Rick will lead the group. We will be discussing the lectionary readings for not the coming Sunday, but the next. The readings we will look at on September 3 are Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; and Luke 15:1-10.

**New Offering - Evening Scripture Study!** This fall the church will offer a Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM. The study will focus on the book of Genesis and follow the Yale Bible Study curriculum. A key feature of this Bible study is that participants will be asked to read and reflect on the assigned readings in advance of each meeting. Weekly meetings will be devoted to discussing the week's scripture passages and associated material from the Yale curriculum. Most weeks the readings will take 1-2 hours. Participants are asked to commit to attending most, if not all, weekly meetings, which will be facilitated by Clay Scott. The first meeting will take place on September 17 and the final meeting will take place on November 12. There will be no meeting on October 8. Meetings will be in-person at FBC by default, though some could be switched to virtual depending on group preferences. If you are interested, please look for a sign-up sheet at the Ministry Station in the hallway or online at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect).

**The Gathering is our campus ministry during the academic year.** 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 for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Mary Davis ([madrad@umich.edu](mailto:madrad@umich.edu)). The first Gathering will be on Wednesday, September 3, at 6:00p in the campus center living room.

**Children's Choir** for kids in Young 5's through 5th grade begins Sunday, **September 14th!** Michelle Ding and Charlie Duke look forward to meeting with the children each Sunday from 11:30-12:00p in the Children's Choir room in the Children's Ministry wing. Kids may be picked up from the choir room at noon or they can head to our supervised Play Space until 12:30 when adult and teen formation classes end (12:30p). We are looking forward to a year of fun faith formation through song!

**Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series**, celebrating its 13th year, will open the 2025-2026 season with "Organ Concert" performed by Dr. Paula Seo on Friday, September 19, at noon. The program include Mozart's exciting Fantasie in F Minor, Seelinck's beautiful variations on a German song "Mein junges Leben hat ein end (My Young Life Has an End)," UM Professor Emeritus William Bolcom's gospel arrangement of Sweet Hour of Prayer and Suite No.1 by Florence Price who was the first African-American woman recognized as a symphonic composer. This will be a beautiful concert. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!

**Blessings of the Animals Service!** Join us for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals Sunday, September 28th 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 make a donation to Maryanne Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center as part our gathering together.

**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.



The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, August 25. We continued work on the screening and interview process. This week we will move to the next early screening stage of the process with some applicants and we feel encouraged by the high quality of applicants so far. We are giving careful consideration to a potential timeline taking into account the needs of the church and the potential needs of candidates. After a lot of hard work we will take off for Labor Day then meet again on September 8. Please continue to hold us and the congregation in your prayers as we all attune to God's leading.

### Calendar

September 1	Labor Day – Church Buildings & Office Closed
September 3	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p
September 4	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
September 7	Coming Home Sunday Children's Ministry begins
September 14	Children's Choir, Youth Ministry, and Adult Formation begins
September 19	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00p
September 28	Blessing of the Animals

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*

Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*

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

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*