



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"So how does it play out, this conviction that God's creation continues in God's providence, God's care for all that God has created and is creating? The conviction that providence itself is innovative, God not just caring for creation but growing creation. The conviction that we are partners with the whole universe in God's great drama, God's great symphony. And the conviction that, however slightly, we help to shape creation. Our improvised movements shift the action on the stage; the note we suggest enriches the harmony."*

David Bartlett

GREETING

Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Allen Burton

Archetypes of Evolution by Bruce Sanguin

One: We open now to the kin-dom of Life, even in the midst of death.

All: We open now to the kin-dom of Beauty, even in the midst of the marred and mangled.

One: We open now to the kin-dom of Goodness, even in the midst of egocentric foolishness.

All: We open now to the kin-dom of Truth, even in the midst of falsehood.

One: For we know all things work together for good, for those who trust the Holy Oneness and who are called to manifest the image of Christ in word, in deed, and in thought.

All: We open to the possibility that in this sacred time together we may take one small step toward the beauty, goodness, and truth known in and through Christ, and that we all may open to these archetypes of evolution.

PRELUDE

Andante grazioso Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
from *Sonata in A Major, KV 331* (1756-1791, Austrian)

OPENING PRAYER

Allen Burton

***HYMN**

Womb of Life, and Source of Being

IN BABILONE

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 8:22-27

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)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Thou My Vision

arr. by Richard Walters
Isaac Thompson, *baritone*

Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence, my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thy my great Father and I Thy true Son;
Thou in the dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise.
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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

Ordinary People by John van de Laar

One: God, life is a mystery – far too deep for us to fathom, too large for us to grasp.

All: **We are just ordinary people, seeking to make each day something special, and hoping that in some way our lives might have meaning, might count.**

One: And so we recognize that we need so much.

All: **We need wisdom and strength. We need compassion and courage.**

One: And we turn to you as the source of what we need. What a surprise it is to discover that you are within us! In Jesus, you have stepped into our world.

All: **By your Spirit, you have stepped into our hearts. How often we have missed this hidden treasure inside us.**

One: Yes, we are just ordinary people, but we are your image, and we are filled with your presence.

All: **Forgive us for our blindness, and for our neglect of the gift of yourself with which you have so generously blessed us.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.**

A Time for Reflection

*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

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

SERMON

Newborn Again

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

Consolation No.5

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886, Hungarian)

*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

Rick Mixon

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

*HYMN *O Spirit of the Living God* FOREST GREEN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gigue
from *French Suite V*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750, German)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in celebration of our anniversary.*

~ David & Maryann Bowen ~

We pray for the family and friends of **Bill Nummy** (brother of Kathy Mortensen).
We also 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

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 right here in Fellowship Hall. 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. 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).

Thank you, Christina Alaniz and welcome, Lindsay Duke! Christina wrapped up her time as our Childcare Supervisor early this summer as her full-time job is requiring more travel. We are grateful for her warm and loving presence with the youngest among us. We're delighted to have Lindsay Duke stepping into the role of Childcare Supervisor this year. Lindsay brings many gifts to the work of caring for children, especially as she invites children to wonder and explore. We give thanks for you both, Christina and Lindsay!

Worship Moves Back to the Sanctuary Next Sunday! We've been worshipping in the Fellowship Hall for cooler temps this summer and now it's time to move back to the Sanctuary this coming Sunday! We appreciated your flexibility as we worshiped in a different space. We are grateful to our live-stream team for their ministry and willing to problem solve! See you in the Sanctuary next week!

Time to Bless All Learners and Educators! Next Sunday, we will bless all of our learners and educators, including our teaching ministry teams here at church, during worship. We look forward to celebrating the year ahead and all the learning that will take place!

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.

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). The first Gathering will be on Wednesday, September 3, at 5:30p in the campus center living room.

FBC Ladies' Book Club. Our next book club meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 25th at 6:30pm. We will meet at Mary Gregg's home to discuss *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict, the story of actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr. Please contact Janice Stumpf (jlstumpf@umich.edu) with any questions! All ladies are welcome!

Come One, Come All! The choir has openings for singers in every section. We have wonderful singers with us now, but we need to build each of our sections, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We have section leaders to help you learn your parts too! If you love to sing, or know anyone who does, can read some music (don't need to be an expert), want to worship God through music, desire to help the congregation sing the hymns more fully, and have lots of fun, you could be in the choir! I will admit it takes commitment though, but don't we want to give our best in the worship of the living God? We rehearse together each Thursday night from 7pm to 8:30pm. We sing around 120 pieces per season. We rehearse on Sunday mornings starting at 9:15am until the end of the worship service at 11:15am. We sing the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols Service from King's College, Cambridge. If you or anyone you know would like to join us, please let me know, come to a practice, see how you do, experience singing in the choir! You might find you love it and think, "why have I waited so long? This is GREAT!" You can see me on any Sunday after worship if you would like to chat about it! Think about it. Pray about it. Here is a famous quote from Shakespeare that I edited long ago: To sing or not to sing, there is NO question!!!!
- Bonnie Kidd, Choir Director

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.



The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, August 11. We discussed the initial screening process for applicants and finalized plans to move ahead with that part of our work this week. We also worked on a sermon evaluation rubric and plan to complete that next week. We have received several applications so far and will begin review of potential candidates on August 18. This will be a multi-layered process and we will continue to accept new applicants as we are evaluating. We are excited to see how God will continue to lead us as a team and all of us as a congregation into the next chapter. Thank you for your prayers!

- The FBCA2 PSC

Calendar

August 24	Blessing of Educators & Learners
August 25	FBC Ladies' Book Club @6:30p
August 27	The Gathering at Festifall
September 3	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @5:30p
September 7	Coming Home Sunday Children's Ministry begins
September 14	Children's Choir, Youth Ministry, and Adult Formation begins

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*