



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION:

"The loftier the building, the deeper must the foundation be laid."

Thomas à Kempis

GREETING

Rick Mixon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremy Bon

Psalms 31:1-5, 19-24 Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*

One: In You, Beloved, I would make my home; though I be humiliated with guilt,
Your mercy and forgiveness will deliver me!

**All: Hear me and hasten to my assistance! For You are my strength and have the
power to raise me up!**

One: Yes, You are strength and truth to me; lead me and guide me that I may grow;
loosen me from the net which entangles me, for Your Heart is my home.

**All: Into Your hands do I commend my soul; You have redeemed me, O Love,
Faithful One.**

One: Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which is ever-present to those who
reverence You, and available to all who make Your Heart their home, openly
for all to see!

**All: Like a mother hen, You shelter them from temptations of the world; You hold
them safe under Your Wings from the enemy...fear.**

One: Blessed be the Beloved, Who has wondrously shown steadfast love to me
when I was beset by an army of fear. I had said in my fright, "I am separated
from Your Love."

All: And You heard my pleas when I cried for You to help.

One: Listen in the Silence, all you saints! The Beloved upholds the faith-filled, but
those who separate themselves from truth and goodness know not Love.

All: So, be strong, and let your hearts take courage all you, who would know Love!

PRELUDE

Adagia (Excerpt)
from *Symphony for organ No.6*

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844-1937, French)

OPENING PRAYER

Jeremy Bon

*HYMN 559

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

***SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 7:21-29 (The Message) Rick Mixon

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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 (see insert) God Be in My Head
(Children 5th grade and younger come forward while we sing.)

LYTLINGTON

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

With a Voice of Singing

- Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD

Xan Morgan

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

- St. Augustine

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 (insert)**

The Church's Strong Foundation

AURELIA

SERMON

Foundational Words

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

Canticle of the Turning

- arr. by Anne Krentz Organ

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you ring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy shall last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
Refrain

From the hall of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
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

Rick Mixon

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

*HYMN (insert)

We Would Be Building

FINLANDIA

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro
from *Organ Sonata I, BWV 525*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750, Germany)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of David Gregg.*

~ His Family ~

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

The rosebud on the lectern is in celebration of the birth of Clara Jean Laidlaw to Louisa & Sam Laidlaw (and big brother Weston!) on September 7th.

*Please stand in body or spirit

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

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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*

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 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 - 3 years). Children through 5th 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 when our formation hour ends.

Children's Choir for kids in Young 5's through 5th grade begins today! 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!

The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12. Starting today after worship, join us in the Youth Room (in the library wing below the sanctuary) from 11:30-12:30 for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. This fall we will focus on the subjects of hospitality, emotions, relationships, and justice in the Bible and our Christian faith. We will also have some fun afternoon/evening weekend activities! For more information, please contact Jillian Mast (jillian@fbca2.org).

Adult Formation Classes on Sundays at 11:30 in the Memorial Lounge. Pastor Rick will be leading a discussion on *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*, by Walter Brueggemann. These discussions will be held on September 14 and October 12 & 19.

"In our own contemporary context of the rat race of anxiety, the celebration of Sabbath is an act of both resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods." - Walter Brueggemann.

Other scheduled discussions:

- **September 21,** Rolf Bouma will be preaching and then hosting a sermon talk-back in the lounge.

- **September 28**, the Board of Mission Action will be discussing the work of Detroit Friendship House.
- **October 5**, Town Hall Transition Update

Wednesday Bible Study. The group meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the memorial lounge with Pastor Rick. **No class on September 17**, we will resume on September 24.

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.

Faith and Family Gathering for all Children's Ministry families on Friday, September 26th from 6-8p. We'll gather at the Magers' home (4861 Polo Fields Dr. 48103) for pizza, conversation, and supervised play for the kiddos. Can you join us? I hope so! RSVP at 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), sign up at fbca2.org/connect, or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room.

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series, celebrating its 13th year, will open the 2025-2026 season with "Organ Concert" performed by Dr. Paula Seo this coming 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.

The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, September 8. We are excited to have many applicants who have now gone through our initial screening. About half the candidates will not move forward and the other half will move to the first level of the interview process. We plan to complete our level one assessments with most of the candidates this week and the rest in the weeks to follow. We continue to accept new applicants on a rolling basis. We created a robust and thorough process allowing for objectivity and individual insight that calls forth the wisdom of our group. We are VERY enthusiastic about the current pool of candidates and trust that God is leading us well. Thank you for your trust in us and your faith in this process that we know will lead us to the right person to lead our congregation. We very much appreciate your continued prayers!

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

September 14	Children's Choir, Youth Ministry, and Adult Formation begins David Gregg Memorial Service @2:00p
September 17	The Gathering @6:00p Evening Scripture Study @7:00p
September 19	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00p
September 26	Faith & Family Small Group @6:00p
September 28	Blessing of the Animals