



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"So let us, fifty times a day if need be, set before us a picture of the real God, utterly loving, whatever we have done, infinitely strong, resourceful and purposeful, finding this way for us when that way is closed for whatever reason, who will not allow us to be lost and defeated if we trust God, and who is generous beyond all thoughts of generosity. Let us commit ourselves to God every morning, for the real God is to be trusted, and whatever happens to us – called, as it may be by others, failure, catastrophe or defeat – we shall know that eternal love still bears us on its bosom, and that we shall find our way home without regret."*

Leslie Weatherhead, *Prescription for Anxiety*

GREETING

Rick Mixon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Foote

One: God calls us to this place, a haven for healing and hope.

All: **We come, with the pain of our burdens, we come to hear God's Word of hope for us.**

One: Together, we will sing songs of joy; each of us will hear God whisper our name, 'Beloved of my heart.'

All: **We join our voices in prayer and praise; we sing of our longing for new lives.**

One: Here, our shadowed corners are filled with Light; here we discover that God dwells in us.

All: **And not just us, for God would teach all to love; God's Spirit would lead all peoples in peace.**

PRELUDE

O heilige Dreifaltigkeit
(O Holy Trinity)

Robert Buckley Farlee
(b.1950, American)

COMING HOME

Sara Armstrong

I am coming home.

My hand is on the door, a story on my lips.

I bring the world inside, an adventure at a time,

And I am met with steady love, with patience and impatience.

Full of light and might, I embrace and am embraced.

And in the coming and the going, in the busyness of days,
we build, memory by memory, who I am meant to be.

I am coming home.

I shut the door behind me to keep the world at bay.

Its pain howls at the windows while it calls my name.

I take off my armor. I unlink my spine.
I take a jagged breath, and hold your hand in mine.
And I am seen, and I am known in all my imperfections.
And somehow loved in spite of them—
Healed, whole—I leave again.

I am coming home.
I stand uneasily on the porch, unsure whether to stay or to go.
My heart keens,
Mourning what was and will never be again.
You are gone, and I am broken, but you sing in my soul still.
I remember your failures, and I regret my own.
And amongst the echoes, I sit weeping in the ashes of our home.

I am coming home.
I step outside, onto my porch, and walk into the world.
I close my eyes. A gentle breeze kisses my skin.
I breathe it all in. The sun, the rain.
Day departing, dawn returning.
The inevitability, the limitless possibility,
And for a fleeting moment, I am at peace,
But then a car drives by, the door slams, and I am lost again.

Lord, I see it now—
how you have offered home,
And held within it everything. Everything.
The world is hard and wonderful,
and as the years pass, I try to meet it all with love.
I want to be for others what home has been for me.
I want mine to be the arms that extend your embrace.
Softness and safety, I want to be that place.
Lord, help me. I am not coming home. I am becoming home.

***HYMN 127**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Betsy Foote

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 *All Who Dwell in the Shadow of the Lord* Z. Randall Stroope

At the first light of day, Lauda, laudé! When the sun reaches noon, Lauda, laudé!

And then at sunset, Lauda, laudé! Lauda, laudé!

All who dwell in the shadow of the Lord, they find a refuge and fortress;

Nation, village or faith of a small child, home they find in him.

May we sing, sing for joy, Lauda, laudé! May our days all be glad, Lauda, laudé!

May we have wisdom, Lauda, laudé!

May we have truth, Lauda, laudé! Lauda, laudé! *Refrain*

Plagues and serpents of the dark, pestilence that stalks the night,

They who harm, who destroy, those who spread fear and terror,

But those who make the Lord most high their refuge and their dwelling,

No fear, no harm, no foe will come near our land,

No shame, no death, no evil consume or destroy. Lauda, laudé! *Refrain*

SHARING OUR MISSION ACTION

Khurshida Hossain, Detroit Friendship House

DJ Reed, Chair of Board of Mission Action

*GOSPEL READING

from John 14

Rick Mixon

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN (insert)

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

SERMON

Of Time and Place

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

The Fullness of God's Love

- arr. by Benjamin Harlan

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?

Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell;

For I know whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flights to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages, Jesus led me all the way.

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.

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

*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 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.

The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12. 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).

Join us this week for Mission Sunday! FBCA2 will be conducting the first of several Mission Sundays this Sunday, September 28. On our Mission Sundays, you will be introduced during the worship service to a key FBCA2 mission partner whom we financially support. Following our fellowship time, we invite you to join us in the lounge at 11:30a where you'll learn more about needs in the community and how our mission partner is addressing current problems. This week, we welcome Khurshida Hossain, Executive Director of Detroit Friendship House who will be helping us understand the challenges of food insecurity in Ann Arbor and Hamtramack. We hope to see you there!

First Baptist Church Transition Update. Following the service next Sunday, October 5, we'll gather for a transition update. Ahead of the meeting, congregants are invited to submit questions or concerns electronically using the form that was shared in the newsletter or in-person with the forms at the ministry station in the hallway. Questions? Connect with our Chair of Personnel, Paula Burton (pmburton13@gmail.com) and/or our Moderator, Mary Davis (marydavis1956@gmail.com).

Adult Formation Classes on Sundays at 11:30 in the Memorial Lounge. On October 12 & 19, Pastor Rick continues a discussion on *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*, by Walter Brueggemann.

"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.

Blessings of the Animals Service! Join us for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals today 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 of our gathering together.

Wednesday Bible Study. The group meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the memorial lounge with Pastor Rick. On October 1, we will be discussing the texts for October 12. These are Jeremiah 29:1,4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; and Luke 17:11-19.

Wednesday Evening Scripture Study. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM as we work through the Yale Bible Study curriculum on the book of Genesis. 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. The study will conclude the week before Thanksgiving. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

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](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?business=fbca2)). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room.

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents "Violin Duet" on Friday, October 10, at noon. Two violinists Maria Bessmeltseva and Phoebe Galzer-Govatos will perform pieces written for two violins by Mozart, Bartok and Prokofiev. Maria and Phoebe have brought exciting and refreshing programs to the series in the past. They will join forces again to take the audience to the violin world. This is a free concert and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. For more information, visit our church website.

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.

The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, Sept. 22. In our devotional reflection we were reminded of the constancy of change and how transition is always emerging at some level. Even in the challenge of newness, we experience God's guiding presence.

At our meeting this week we discussed the next level of our process and are confident in the next steps. Our team evaluated several candidates who will be moving forward to the next level. Next week we will evaluate more candidates from this pool. We are encouraged by the solid quality of those who are engaging with us. We feel the process is reflective of the congregation's needs and requirements of us and that we're moving at a good pace. Please keep us in your prayers as this journey continues and we engage more deeply with a number of individuals.

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 28	Blessing of the Animals @4:00p
October 1	Bible Study @1:00p
	The Gathering @6:00p
	Evening Scripture Study @7:00p
October 2	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
October 5	Transition Update @11:30a

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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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*