



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

3rd Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Xan Morgan

ABC REGIONAL UPDATE

Rev. Ed Owens, Associate Regional Minister
Central Area, American Baptist Churches of Michigan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Lincoln Reed

One: On this journey through the season of Lent, we come to reflect

Many: on God, who is the source of all good,

One: on Jesus, who takes the way of the cross for us,

Many: on the Spirit, who works our transformation within,

One: on our path, which must follow that of Jesus,

Many: on our lives, in need of deepest healing.

PRELUDE

Ivory Palaces

Fred Bock
(1939-1998, American)

*OPENING PRAYER

Lincoln Reed

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 95

Lincoln Reed

One: Come, let us sing to the Lord –

Many: Make joyful sounds in praise of God.

One: With thanksgiving come before God,

Many: Raise to God our songs of praise.

One: For the Lord is a great God;

Many: A great God above all others.

One: God's hands hold earth and seas;

Many: Whatever the Lord has made remains in God's hands.

*HYMN (see insert)

I sing the Almighty Power of God

FOREST GREEN

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 27:1, 7-14

Lincoln Reed

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Jesu, Jesu

CHEREPONI

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

TIME AS CHILDREN

Jesu, Jesu (v.2)

Xan Morgan

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away. (*refrain*)

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

George Mason

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER (see insert)

***GOSPEL READING**

John 4:4-26

George Mason

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

Psalm 22

Edwin M. Willmington

Though from first breath Your hand led me,
And my days by You were blessed,
Now, O God, I cry each morning,
Pray all night, but find no rest.
While my eyes are turned to heaven,
Deepest night is all I see;
Cast aside, my spirit broken,
Has my God forsaken me?
Bared and battered, my life poured out,
Trouble waits outside the door;
Throngs of wicked ones surround me,
Will I perish by their sword?

Yet I feel it – peace unshaken,
And I hear my Shepherd say:
“Peace, be still, for I am near you;
by your side I will remain.”
All who hunger, all who wander,
All who seek the God of peace;
Lift your voices to the heavens,
Shouting praise that will not cease!
Generations tell the story
Of God’s love across the earth;
Light in darkness, hope in trial
Is our King of endless worth! Amen.

SERMON

Going Deeper

George Mason

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

Xan Morgan

OFFERING OF GIFTS

God So Loved the World

David Barton

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

***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**

Xan Morgan

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

***HYMN** (see insert)

In Christ There Is No East or West

MCKEE

***BENEDICTION**

George Mason

POSTLUDE

Passacaille
from Suite in G Minor, HWV 432 (1685-1759, German-English)

G.F. Handel

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
in great appreciated to our staff during this transition time.*

~ The Grapentine family ~

We pray for **Ed Parmentier, Celeste Weissinger, Jon VanderVliet, Erica Diels, Katherine Cartee, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Betty Frieswyk, Tom & Tommi Orlando, Helga Mortensen, Cindy Okarski, Greg DuBois, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**

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 downstairs after worship for fellowship time. We'd love to connect! And you can sign a birthday card for Arthur Francis who will turn 101 next week!

I was... and You... Throughout the season of Lent, we have a weekly devotion on Matthew 25. It is included as an insert in this bulletin and will be emailed later today. If you haven't already, please make sure to pick up a candle from the ministry station to hold space for your devotions. These devotions will include a story of folks who know what it is like to be hungry, without clean water, or in prison. We'll sit with the scripture passage as we reflect using questions from the traditional monastic practice, Lectio Divina. Each devotion wraps up with an invitation to pray and respond. Over the next couple of weeks we share more ways to offer hospitality to our Daytime Warming Center guests. **We are looking for folks to host activities during the day to make the Fellowship Hall feel more like home. We're looking to host a March Madness watch party, Cookie Decorating on St. Patty's Day, and a Movie and Popcorn event.** You can see what items we need - pop, popcorn, ice, and frosting - and volunteer opportunities at fbca2.org/connect. Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

We welcome Rev. Dr. George Mason the pulpit this morning. George Mason is a Christian theologian, ordained Baptist/UCC pastor in Dallas, Texas. He was Senior Pastor of the Wilshire Baptist Church from 1989 to 2022 and continues to serve as Senior Pastor Emeritus and Director of the Pathways to Ministry Alumni. George is the author of *Preparing the Pastors We Need* (2013) and *The Word Made Fresh* (2023). He is the Founder and President of Faith Commons, an interfaith nonprofit organization committed to amplifying diverse religious voices for the common good. He is also the Lead Advisor for the Baptist House of Studies at Perkins School of Theology (SMU), where he is an adjunct professor. George is married to Kim Mason and they have three children and eight grandchildren. Next Sunday, we welcome Valerie Francia to the pulpit.

Rev. Ed Owens, Associate Regional Minister Central Area, ABC of Michigan joins us in worship this morning to let us know what is happening in the denomination in our region.

Our Adult Formation Class, Stabat Mater Dolorosa, continues today and next Sunday. Come join us for a discussion of a Lenten cantata, Karl Jenkins' imaginative musical setting of the medieval poem *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*, about Mary's experience at the crucifixion. This class is led by Sorbie Richner and will be held in the Memorial Lounge from 11:30-12:30.

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. We are focusing on the subjects of hospitality, emotions, relationships, and justice in the Bible and our Christian faith. We also have some fun afternoon/evening weekend activities! For more information, please contact Jillian Mast (jillian@fbca2.org).

Membership Matters! Membership is about responding to God's call to take the next step in your spiritual journey, and to belong to a community of people who are striving together to do the work of God's limitless love with purpose and passion. By becoming a member of First Baptist Church, you are making a commitment to partner with us as we seek together to claim, cultivate, and proclaim the good news of God's love for our world. Your commitment will make a positive difference in your life, in the life of this church, and in the world around us. We'll have our next Blessing of New Members during worship on Sunday, March 15. Interested in becoming a member? Connect with Xan Morgan (Xan@fbca2.org).

Easter Flowers. Would you like to purchase an Easter lily or bulb garden in honor or memory of someone? The price for each is \$16 and the dedication will be in the Easter Sunday bulletin. You can order at fbca2.org/connect. Order deadline is March 22nd.

Tuesday evening Bible Study – Mark. All are welcome to attend as we use the Yale Bible Study's lessons on Mark. The study involves 8 weekly meetings that will take place on Tuesdays, from 7-8 pm at the church. The time commitment is 1-2 hours of reading and reflection in advance of each meeting, plus the meeting itself. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Clay Scott or 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 Mary Davis for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Mary Davis (madrads@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.

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinaabe people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.

The Pastoral Search Committee met on Monday, March 2. We are finalizing details about our choice of a senior pastor candidate to present to you, the congregation. Our expectation is that by or before Easter Sunday we will be able to share that we have selected a final candidate, and information about how we will help introduce this important person to you in advance of a candidating weekend. We are thrilled to have reached this stage of the process and still very much appreciate your prayers. Thank you for your trust in us and know that we deeply sense God's presence and guidance.



Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at fbca2.org/connect or use the QR code to the right.

Calendar

March 10	Bible Study @7:00p
March 11	Your Spiritual Footprint @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p
March 12	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
March 15	Blessing of New Members

Daytime Warming Center continues through March 27
Monday to Friday, 8:00a to 4:00p

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 East Washington Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2015
Telephone: 734/663-9376
Email: office@fbca2.org Website: fbca2.org

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*
Kat Becker, *Administrator*
Rev. Rolf Bouma, *Associate for Worship Planning*
Revs. Beth and Bill Foster, *Associates for Pastoral Care*
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 & Isaac Thompson, *Children's Choir*
Lee Foley, *Buildings & Grounds*