

First Baptist Church at Worship

August 20, 2023
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

A Summer in Rome

Gathering

Piano Prelude

There is Power in the Blood

arr. by Michael Ware

Would you do service for Jesus your king...

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

Come let us worship God, rejoicing in God's loving care for us.

We bring all our differences and yet we worship together in unity.

God is merciful to all. O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

Through God all things are made whole. Let us worship God.

+Hymn 48

Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

+Prayer of Confession

Jeremiah Banks

Forgive us, Lord, for we know our guilt; our sin is before us. In our hearts seeds of discord grow: fear, covetousness, anger. We exercise power without humility, knowledge without wisdom. Merciful God, teach us obedience and faith. Help us to see your hand at work in the world: guiding us to wholeness, tending us in love. Amen.

+Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

+The Peace

Carolyn Garr

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Response

THEMBA AMEN

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

Neeta Curd, percussionist

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Alex Lockridge

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? **By no means!** I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

-Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn of Discipleship

Help Us Accept Each Other

ST. THEODULPH

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!*

A Reading from the Gospels

JoAnn Burton

Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon

"The Gift of Irrevocability"

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 656

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPONI

Nick Hibbard & Summer Walter, percussionists

If you desire to become a follower of Christ or if you wish to present yourself for membership today, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Gary Akins

Loose change received in August will benefit the Corbin Community Backpack Program.

Offertory

Great Is the Lord

arr. by Ed Lojeski

Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

+Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Sending

+Hymn 272

They'll Know We Are Christians

ST. BRENDAN'S

+Commission and Blessing

Jeremiah Banks and Alex Lockridge

Go now as creators and preservers of life, and live together as one.

And may God bless you with life forever;

May Christ Jesus heal you of all that would harm you;

And may the Holy Spirit cleanse your hearts of all that would defile you. Amen.

Organ Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

setting by A.L. Page

Save us from weak resignation. to the evils we deplore;

Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.

+all who are able may stand

leading in worship today

Gary Akins
Deacon

Rev. Jeremiah Banks
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

JoAnn Burton
reader

Donna Davis
Organist

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr
Interim Music Director

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of
Mel Chandler, Sr.
in commemoration of his August 24th birthday
by
Mel, Jane, Garner, and Patton Chandler*

Today's organ music is from a library of more than 1,000 digitized hymns, anthems, and solo-organ music that Gayle Majors recorded over the last several years. We are thankful for Gayle's life, for her 36-year tenure as Organist for First Baptist Church, and for this fine legacy that she has left for us.

*supplemental organ music by William P. Young, III

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