

First Baptist Church at Worship

July 23, 2023
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

A Summer in Rome

Gathering

Piano Voluntary *Sonata of Glory* arr. by D. Wyrzten

Greeting and Call to Worship Alex Lockridge

From the moment we open our eyes each morning until we close them at night,

God is with us.

In times when we are surrounded with struggles, in all the surprising places we find hope,

Jesus is with us.

When we feel orphaned by the world, when we are welcomed into faith's family,

The Holy Spirit is with us.

Let us worship the Triune God.

+Hymn 590 *The Solid Rock* SOLID ROCK

+Prayer of Confession Jeremiah Banks

...darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

-from Psalm 139

+The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Proclaiming

Choral Response *Psalm 139* arr. by Allen Pote

Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know everything I do.

When I rise up and lie down, you are with me through and through.

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Hannah Reeder

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

-Romans 8:12-25

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn 41
stanzas 1-4

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

A Reading from the Gospels

Neeta Curd

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon

“The Creation and Sin Dichotomy”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 376

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

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

Nancy Rich

Loose change received in July will benefit the Central Baptist Church clothing ministry.

Offertory *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* arr. by S. Wilkinson
*And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come,
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending ten thousand years and then forevermore.*
Donna Davis, organ, Yukiko Fujimura, piano

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

+Sending Hymn *God of the Fertile Fields* ITALIAN HYMN

*God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
Forth from Your bounteous hand come gifts Your love has planned,
That all in every land be clothed and fed.*

*We would be stewards true, holding in trust from You all that You give;
Help us in love to share, teach us like You to care
For people everywhere, that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, Your reign yet grows.
So let our toil be used, no gift of Yours abused,
No humble task refused Your love bestows.*

*God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
We pledge our lives anew in faithful love to You;
Guide all we say and do, till life is done.*

+Commission and Blessing Jeremiah Banks and Alex Lockridge

*Wherever you go, whether you scale the heavens or plunge to the depths,
May God's presence be inescapably with you;
May Christ Jesus welcome you into his inheritance;
And may the Holy Spirit assure you that you are God's children. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

The Solid Rock

setting by A.L. Page

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

+all who are able may stand

leading in worship today

Rev. Jeremiah Banks
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Neeta Curd
reader

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr
Interim Music Director

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

Hannah Reeder
Student.Church Intern

Nancy Rich
Deacon

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in commemoration of
Michelle Litteral Brock's
July 21st birthday
by
Anna Litteral and family*

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