

First Baptist Church at Worship

July 30, 2023
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

A Summer in Rome

Gathering

Choral Prelude *Worthy of Worship* arr. by Tom Fettke
*Worthy of worship, worthy of praise, worthy of honor and glory;
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing, worthy of all of the offerings we bring...*

Greeting and Call to Worship Alex Lockridge
*Like a tiny seed or a little leaven,
 The realm of God grows among us.
Like a hidden treasure or precious pearl,
 The realm of God is all we desire.
Let us worship God.*

+Hymn 339 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* CORONATION

+Prayer of the day Hannah Reeder
*God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole, a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand, and is ours to choose each day. May our smallest acts of courtesy, when transformed by your love, grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. **Amen.***

+The Peace Jeremiah Banks
*The peace of the Lord be with you.
 And also with you.*

+Response GOODNESS IS STRONGER
***Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.
Oh, victory is ours; victory is our through God who loves us.***
Kinley Lockridge, cantor

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Alex Lockridge

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

-Romans 8:26-39

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn of Proclamation

What Is the World Like

NATIONAL HYMN

What is the world like when God's will is done? Mustard seeds grow more than we conceive;

Roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun. This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God's will is done? Witness the wandering child coming home;

Watch as the parent breaks into a run. This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God's will is done? No more is neighbor just ally or friend;

Peace thrives in places where once there was none. This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God's will is done? Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,

Tending our lamps till the new day's begun. This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts, filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.

Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts, this is a new world where God's will is done.

A Reading from the Gospels

Helen Diehl

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon

“The Power of Nothing”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 418

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

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

Elizabeth Reese

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

Offertory

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

arr. by Glenn Calcote

Carson Calico, flute

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 222

Thine Is the Glory

MACCABEUS

+Commission and Blessing

Jeremiah Banks and Alex Lockridge

*Go now secure in the love of God from which nothing can separate you.
And may God work for good in all things for you;
May Christ Jesus conform you in the image of his love;
And may the Holy Spirit help you in your weakness according to the will of God. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

setting by J. Jones

*Let every tongue and every tribe responsive to his call,
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.*

+all who are able may stand

leading in worship today

Rev. Jeremiah Banks
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Donna Davis
Organist

Helen Diehl
Reader

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr
Interim Music Director

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

Hannah Reeder
Student Church Intern

Elizabeth Reese
Deacon

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of
Ruth Myers
in commemoration of her birthday
by
The David Myers 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

Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734945. All rights reserved.