

First Baptist Church at Worship

October 15, 2023
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting Jeremiah Banks

Piano Prelude *Cross Medley* arr. by N. Hibbard

Call to Worship Alex Lockridge

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love...

...neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers, a community of kindred hearts.

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know...

...strangers, sojourners, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here.

In each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

People of God, come, let us worship together.

+Hymn 306 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* *MADRID

+Prayer of the Day Jeremiah Banks

Holy God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things. Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word, eager to rebuild the cities you have made, and ready to receive strangers, so that we celebrate at all times and in all places the peace which is life in you. Amen.

+The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Response

Somebody's knocking on your door...

O sinner, why don't you answer?

Somebody's knocking at your door.

Alice Tremaine, cantor

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Epistles

Carolyn Garr

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

*Finally, brothers and sisters, **whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.** As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.*

-Philippians 4:1-9

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn 386

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

ST. AGNES

A Reading from the Gospels

Jill House

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon

“Invite Everyone, Good and Bad”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 312

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

MARION

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

Alex Lockridge

Loose change received in October will go to the Bereavement Meal Fund, which provides meals to our grieving members and their families during their most difficult days.

Offertory Anthem

Old Time Religion

arr. by John Carter

Prayers of the People

Scarlette Jasper

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 215

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

*DARWALL

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

*May you go knowing that God invites you today and every day
to partake in the abundant life and love God has for you.
So may we receive, honor, and celebrate the grace that softens our stubbornness
and opens our hearts to share God's love with one another. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West

setting by Dale Wood

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

+all who are able may stand

leading in worship today

Rev. Jeremiah Banks
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Donna Davis
Organist

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr
Interim Music Director

Jill House
reader

Rev. Scarlette Jasper
CBF Field Personnel

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of my sisters and brothers,
Princess Vermillion McBurney, Mary Nancy V. Messer, U.S. Vermillion Jr.,
Jack Vermillion, Dick Vermillion, and C.D. Vermillion
by
Barbara Vermillion Adkins*

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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