

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2022

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Organ Voluntary

Prelude in Classic Style

by Gordon Young

Greeting and Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.*

And also with you.

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Come into the potter's house –

***We will find the potter at the wheel,
fashioning clay into earthen vessels.***

Give yourselves to the potter's hands –

We will be shaped into vessels of mercy.

Lord, You are the potter, and we are the clay.

***Mold us and make us after Your will,
so that our lives will reflect Your glory.***

+Hymn 52

O Worship the King

*LYONS

+Confession of Sin

Paul Sims

O God, You are the potter, shaping the world and molding our spirits. Your creation is an act of grace and Your every word a fountain of life. Mold and shape us once again, O God, as we confess our sins before You. Drip the water of Your Spirit onto our dry and cracking edges, and push us with Your gentle fingers to reflect Your handiwork. Create love where there is hatred, deep faith where there is shallow religion, generosity where there is selfish greed, wholeness where there are shattered pieces.

For we know that Your work is not yet complete in us, and that our lives are made complete only in You.

+Response

ADELAIDE

***Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way! Thou art the potter, I am the clay!
Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.***

***Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, as in Thy presence humbly I bow.***

- Adelaide A. Pollard

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Alex Lockridge

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

- Jeremiah 18:1-11

+Psalm 139

NETTLETON

*You, O Lord, have searched and known me, when I rest, and when I rise;
Not a single thought I cherish is kept secret from Your eyes.
Every word my lips would murmur needs no speech to make it known.
All I do in every venture is as done to You alone.*

*Whither shall I flee Your Spirit? From Your presence, vanish where?
Heights of heaven, darkest shadows hide me not, for You are there.
If I take the wings of morning, and in earth's far corner stand;
Even there Your love will find me, hold me fast within Your hand.
In the brilliance of Your glory, darkest night is bright as day;
Shadows flee the path before me, when Your wisdom lights my way.
You that knit my parts together, knew my life before my birth,
Sees my faults, yet trusts my promise far beyond my feeble worth.*

- Michael Morgan

A Reading from the Gospels

Paul Sims

Luke 14:25-33

Hymn 486

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

RESTORATION

Sermon

"Reworked"

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn

In An Age of Twisted Values

*BEACH SPRING

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.

*In an age of twisted values we have lost the truth we need.
In sophisticated language we have justified our greed.
By our struggle for possessions we have robbed the poor and weak.
Hear our cry and heal Your people; Your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.
We have built discrimination on our prejudice and fear.
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty if we hold resentments dear.
For communities divided by the walls of class and race,
Hear our cry and heal Your people; show us, Lord, Your love and grace.
We who hear Your word so often choose so rarely to obey.
Turn us from our willful wandering; give us truth to light our way.
In the power of Your Spirit come to cleanse us, make us new;
Hear our cry and heal Your people till Your people honor You.*

- Martin E. Leckebusch

Offertory Prayer

Elizabeth Reese

Loose change received in September will benefit The Mustard Seed Garden, which provides fresh vegetables to the patrons of our Food Pantry.

Offertory

Give Me a Clean Heart

by Margaret Pleasant Douroux

The Summer Choir and the congregation

Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee. Lord, fix my heart__ so that
I____ may be used____ by Thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -
ings. Give me a clean heart,____ and I'll fol - low Thee._____

*I'm not asking for the riches of the land. I'm not asking for the proud to know my name.
Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that I may follow Thee.
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow Thee.*

Remembering Our Past

J. Bill Sosh

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

+The Peace

Paul Sims

*The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.*

+Hymn 355

We Praise Thee, O God

REVIVE US AGAIN

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

*Go from this place as those who have been made and molded by the Potter's hands.
Do not cling to possessions, but take up your cross and follow Jesus.
And may God shape you in the ways of love and justice,
may Christ Jesus refresh your heart,
and may the Holy Spirit be with you, this day and every day. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

O Worship the King

setting by Neil Harmon

+all who are able may stand

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of
Floyd and Barbara Curd, June Delph Curd, and Don Benton*

by

Bryan and Sandi Curd

and

in memory of

Gayle Majors

by

Phil Majors, Jamie Spencer, and Megan Majors-Jackson

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