

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

Prelude

Glory to God

arr. by H. Hopson

Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks

*Christ Jesus is the true vine,
And we are the branches
God is love; abide in God,
And God will abide in you.
Let us worship God.*

+Gathering Hymn

We Know That Christ Is Raised

SINE NOMINE

*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,
And our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia! Alleluia!
We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia! Alleluia!
A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

+Prayer of the Day

Carolyn Garr

*God of the glorious garden, giver of grace, apart from your Word we can do nothing.
Cultivate in us a sense of connection in Christ. Prune our excess and help us to grow in
faith so that we may bear good fruit for the world; through Jesus Christ, the true vine.
Amen.*

+The Peace

Jeremiah Banks

*The peace of the risen Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

+Act of Praise

SINE NOMINE

*Let every tongue confess with one accord in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord;
And God the Father be by all adored: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Gospels

David Whitaker

Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

-John 15:1-8

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn 543

Abide with me

EVENTIDE

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Alex Lockridge

Acts 8:26-40

Sermon

"In Which Vine Do You Abide?"

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 507

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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

Casey Petrey

Loose change received in April will go to the FBC Benevolence Fund to provide utility bill assistance.

Offertory Music

In the Sweet By and By

arr. by S. Stokes

FBC Handbell Choir

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 for Easter

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all grace flows forth!
Praise Life, all creatures here on earth! Alleluia, alleluia.
Praise Light who guides us on our way!
Praise Love who forms us day by day! Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Sending

+Hymn 619

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

ASSURANCE

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

Branches of the Vine, go from this place blessed by Love to work in love with your family, your friends, your neighbors, and strangers who will become friends, bearing the fruit of the life-giving Vine as you cultivate abundant life wherever you go. Amen.

Organ Postlude

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

+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

Dr. Casey Petrey
prayer

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

David Whitaker
reader

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of
Marie Leake
in commemoration of her birthday, April 29,
by
Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson, Harrison & Emerson Lowe,
Kevin & Sherry Pace*

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