

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Seventh Sunday of Easter The Ascension of Jesus

May 12, 2024
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting Alex Lockridge

Prelude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* arr. by B. Wolaver
Samuel Garr, pianist

Call to Worship Carolyn Garr

*Clap your hands and sing to the Lord.
God has gone up with a shout of joy!
Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.
Now he will reign in glory forever.
Let us worship God.*

+Hymn 217 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYMN TO JOY

+Prayer of the Day Jeremiah Banks

Most High God, we are witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ: written in the Law, promised by the prophets, sung by the psalmists; given in love for the world, risen from the dust of death, lifted up in heavenly glory. Let our lives proclaim Christ's life. Wrap us in your power and presence so that we may worship you always, continually blessing your name; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

+The Peace

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

+Act of Praise NETTLETON

*With a shout, and blast of trumpet, God shall mount a throne on high.
Let our praise, as finest incense, rise to meet God in the sky.
Fill the world with glad rejoicing, heav'n shall sing, and earth reply:
Alleluia, alleluia! All God's works to glorify.*

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Jeremiah Banks & Edward Garr

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

-Acts 1:1-11

A Moment for Children

Alice Tremaine

+Hymn of Proclamation

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

MANNA

*There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know that it's the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived, when we shall leave this place.*

A Reading from the Epistles

Krystin Hildebrand

Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon

“...of no earthly good!”

Jeremiah Banks

Responding

+Hymn 215

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

DARWALL

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

Alice Tremaine

Loose change received in May will go to Vacation Bible School taking place on July 15-18.

Offertory Anthem

Heaven Came Down

arr. by Peterson/Hustad

Graduate Recognition

Jeremiah Banks

Presentation of Scholarships

Alex Lockridge

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lynn Tipton

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 223

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

+Commission and Blessing

Jeremiah Banks & Alex Lockridge

*Go out into the world, and bear witness to the Christ who has ascended.
And may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you,
and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ's inheritance. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

setting by A.L. Page

+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

David Garr
trumpeter

Edward Garr
reader

Krystin Hildebrand
reader

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

Lynn Tipton
Scholarship Committee Member

Rev. Alice Tremiane
minister

The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of
Marie Leake
by
Linda Leake Wilson

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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