



First Baptist Church

Worship Service for Sunday, May 12th, 2024

Ascension Sunday

Welcome! Young children are welcome in the service or in our staffed nursery.

The collection is taken at the doorways as you enter the sanctuary.

**Please stand as you are able whether you are participating at home or in the sanctuary.*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: Almighty God, your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has ascended into the heavens; may we also in heart and mind ascend to him, and abide in him continually; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Oluseye Popoola

Opportunities for Life and Service

Chris Senger

Morning Chimes

Oluseye Popoola

**Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!
To his throne beyond the skies. Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, alleluia!
Enters now the highest heav'n. Alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates. Alleluia!
He hath conquered death and sin, alleluia!
Take the King of Glory in! Alleluia!**

**See, he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See, he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow, alleluia!
Blessings on his church below. Alleluia!**

**Lord, beyond our mortal sight, alleluia!
Raise our hearts to reach thy height, alleluia!
There thy face unclouded see, alleluia!
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Prayer

Leader: Welcome in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The
Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Welcoming One Another

We Approach God

*Hymns of Praise “Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending” (Tune: Helmsley)

The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this song and remain at the front during the service.

**Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia! God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving, Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Now redemption, long expected,
See in solemn pomp appear:
And his saints, by all rejected, Thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia! See the day of God appear.**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour take the power and glory, Claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!**

“Praise the Name of Jesus”

by Roy, Jr. Hicks

**Praise the name of Jesus,
Praise the name of Jesus.
He's my Rock, he's my Fortress,
He's my deliverer.
In him shall I trust.
Praise the name of Jesus.**

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

"From the Rising of the Sun"
(Arr. Bruce Greer)

Sanctuary Choir

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,
The name of the Lord shall be praised.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,
The name of the Lord shall be praised.

So praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,
The name of the Lord shall be praised.

(Reflective Reading)

(Congregation and choir:)

**From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,
The name of the Lord shall be praised.**

**From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,
The name of the Lord shall be praised.**

So praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

**From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,
The name of the Lord shall be praised.**

Unison Prayer of Confession

Chris Senger

Merciful and loving God, we confess to you before all of heaven, and before one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us and restore us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God

*Hymn of Approach

“Jesus, Be the Centre”
(Michael Frye; Arr. Chris Mitchell)

**Jesus, be the centre,
Be my source, be my light, Jesus.**

**Jesus, be the centre,
Be my hope, be my song, Jesus.**

(Refrain:)

**Be the fire in my heart,
Be the wind in these sails,
Be the reason that I live,
Jesus, Jesus.**

**Jesus, be my vision,
Be my path, be my guide, Jesus. *(Refrain)***

“Open the Eyes of my Heart”

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you. I want to see you.
To see you high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy.**

**Holy, holy, holy
I want to see you.**

Scripture Reader

Epistle Lesson: The Letter to the Ephesians 1:11-22 (CEV)

N.T. page 192

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 47

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

All: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

Leader: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Leader: For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

All: God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Leader: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

All: For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

*Gloria Patri

#623

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*New Testament Lesson: The Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

N.T. page 118

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“What Story am I in? Who am I?”

Joel Russell-MacLean

We Respond to God

***Hymn of Response “Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me”**

(Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson & Michael Farren)

**What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, “All is mine!”
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Saviour, he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me,
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
The future sure, the price it has been paid;
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, “I am free!”
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**With every breath, I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home;
And day by day, I know he will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, all the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
“Yet not I, but through Christ in me.”**

Prayers of the People

Cheryl Johnston

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 and ever. Amen.

Our Gifts and Offerings

We Depart to Serve God

*Hymn for Departing

“Praise the Lord”

(arr. Jeff Sotropa)

**Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow,
He has washed and made me white as snow.
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.
Now and forever, praise his holy name!
Praise his holy name! Praise his holy name!
To God be the glory now and forever, praise his holy name!**

*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Oluseye Popoola

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited to the lower hall for refreshments following the service.

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