



First Baptist Church

Worship Service for Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

7th Sunday in Epiphany

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: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the one who gives us life. You are the source of our light and strength. In the midst of all our cares and responsibilities, help us to know what is needed each day. May we may again to you each day. In your name we pray. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Xavier Russell-MacLean

Opportunities for Life and Service

Joel Russell-MacLean

*The Introit

“We Have Come to Join in Worship”

(Words by Ken Bible and George Atkins; Tune: “Joyful, Joyful” #1)

We have come to join in worship and adore the Lord our God.

Let us come in prayer, expecting God to speak his mighty Word.

All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.

Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.

Let us care for all his people till our God makes all things new.

Christ will call us home to heaven; at his banquet we'll sit down;

Christ himself will rise and serve us living manna all around.

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

*Hymn of Praise

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

#428

**I need thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.**

(Refrain:)

**I need thee, oh, I need thee; every hour I need thee;
Oh, bless me now, my saviour, I come to thee.**

**I need thee every hour, stay thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r when thou art nigh. *(Refrain)***

**I need thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain. *(Refrain)***

**I need thee ev'ry hour, teach me thy will;
And thy rich promises In me fulfill. *(Refrain)***

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“Down to the River to Pray”

Sanctuary Choir

Lyrics can be found at the back of the bulletin

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you— Allelu, Alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you— Allelu, Alleluia!**

“Cleanse Me”

#438, v. 1-3

**Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Saviour, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.**

**I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill thy word, and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify thy name.**

**Lord, take my life, and make it wholly thine;
Fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord—in me abide.**

Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon

John Hilmer

**Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

We Listen to God

Scripture Reader

Rowan Russell-MacLean

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

O.T. Page 42

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Leader: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

All: Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Leader: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

All: He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Leader: Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

All: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

Leader: Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

All: But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

Leader: The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

All: The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

*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.

*Gospel Lesson: The Gospel According to Luke 10:38-11:13

N.T. page 72

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Cheryl Johnston

We Respond to God

*Hymn of Response

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

#433

**Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!**

**Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

Prayers of the People

Hilary Ryan

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

Cheryl Johnston

We Depart to Serve God

*Hymn for Departing

“His Glory and My Good”

by City Alight

**There is hope in every trial for I can trust the Lord.
He will turn my heart towards him and help me bear the thorn.
So in faith I follow Jesus on the road not understood
For I know that he is working for his glory and my good.**

(Refrain:)

**To our God be the glory, to our God be praise -
He alone - the name above all names.
I will boast ever, only in the Lord my God
For I know his glory is my good.**

**Would I gladly be made nothing that Christ would be made more?
Would I seek the only kingdom that far outweighs them all?
I will stand before my Father where the faithful saints have stood,
And with joy my heart shall praise him for his glory and my good. *(Refrain)***

*Benediction

Cheryl Johnston

Music for Departing

Xavier Russell-MacLean

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited downstairs for refreshments following the service.

Parents:

Please go to meet your children in Godly Play and Nursery as they can only be dismissed into your care.

"Down to the River to Pray"

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way;
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way.

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way;
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way.

O brother, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O brother, let's go down, down to the river to pray,
Down to the river to pray.

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

So let's go down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way;
(Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,)
That we shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show us the way.
(With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?)

So let's go down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way;
(Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;)
That we shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show us the way.
(Soon our happy hearts will quiver with melody of peace.)

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God,
That flows by the throne of God,
That flows by the throne of God, that flows by the throne.
(Down to the river to pray, down to the river to pray,)