



# *First Baptist Church*

**Worship Service for Sunday, March 9th, 2025**

1st Sunday in Lent

*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**

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**Silent Prayer:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Oluseye Popoola

Opportunities for Life and Service

Cheryl Johnston

\*The Introit            "Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights"

**Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way,  
Where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter day.**

**The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God, who found in weakness greater power,  
Embraces us, though lost and flawed, and leads us to his rising hour.**

**And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on  
Through Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming dawn.**

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

**All: And also with you.**

## **We Approach God**

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\*Hymn of Praise

“O Come to the Altar”

*by Elevation*

*The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn before going downstairs for Godly Play and Oasis.*

**Are you hurting and broken within?  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?  
Jesus is calling.**

**Have you come to the end of yourself?  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?  
Jesus is calling.**

*(Refrain:)*

**O come to the altar, the Father's arms are open wide.  
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.**

**Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,  
Come today, there's no reason to wait,  
Jesus is calling.**

**Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,  
From the ashes, a new life is born,  
Jesus is calling. *(Refrain)***

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Hymn of Approach

“I Believe in Jesus”

*by Marc Nelson*

**I believe in Jesus, I believe he is the Son of God,  
I believe he died and rose again, I believe he paid for us all;  
I believe he’s here now, standing in our midst,  
Here with the power to heal now and the grace to forgive.**

**I believe in you Lord, I believe you are the Son of God,  
I believe you died and rose again, I believe you paid for us all;  
I believe you are here now, standing in our midst,  
Here with the power to heal now and the grace to forgive.**

“I Know Whom I Have Believed”

#409

*(The refrain quotes 2 Timothy 1:12)*

**I know not why God’s wondrous grace to me he hath made known,  
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.**

*(Refrain:)*

**But “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able,  
To keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.”**

**I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart,  
Nor how believing in his word wrought peace within my heart. *(Refrain)***

**I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing all of sin,  
Revealing Jesus through the word, creating faith in him. *(Refrain)***

**I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noontide fair,  
Nor if I walk the vale with him, or “meet him in the air.” *(Refrain)***

Epistle Lesson: Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 5:14 - 6:2 N.T. page 181

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 91

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

**All: Will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."**

Leader: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

**All: For the Lord will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

Leader: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

**All: You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**

Leader: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

**All: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honour them.**

\*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 15:1, 2, 11 - 32

N.T. page 78

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Hymn of Response

“In Christ Alone”

**In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the love of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am his and he is mine; bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death - this is the power of Christ in me.  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.  
Till he returns or calls me home, here, in the power of Christ, I’ll stand.**

Prayers of the People

Bryan Orthner

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

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*Hymn for Departing

“Man of Sorrows”

**Man of sorrows, Lamb of God, by his own betrayed.  
Bowing to the Father's will, he took a crown of thorns.**

**O that rugged cross, my salvation, where your love poured out over me.  
Now my soul cries out, Hallelujah! praise and honour unto thee.**

**Sent of heaven, God's own Son, to purchase and redeem,  
And reconcile the very ones, who nailed him to the tree.**

**O that rugged cross, my salvation, where your love poured out over me.  
Now my soul cries out, Hallelujah! praise and honour unto thee.**

\*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.

Parents:

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





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