



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, August 23, 2026

13th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost

*Welcome! Young children are welcome in their classes, in our staffed nursery, or in the service.
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: God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbour: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Xavier Russell-MacLean

Opportunities for Life and Service

Joel Russell-MacLean

*The Introit

"Speak O Lord"

(Stuart Townend & Keith Getty)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you

To receive the food of your holy word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us;

Shape and fashion us in your likeness;

That the light of Christ might be seen today

In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us

All your purposes for your glory.

Call to Worship and Prayer

Joel Russell-MacLean

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

"Praise to the Lord"

#8

The children are invited to come forward before going downstairs for their own time of worship.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near,

Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;

Shelters thee under his wings, yes, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been

Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;

Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,

If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.

Let the amen sound from his people again;

Gladly for aye we adore him.

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

*Hymn of Praise

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

#284

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, (2x)

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, (2x)

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, (2x)

And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: (Refrain)

**All praise to the Father from whom all blessings come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *(Refrain)***

Call to Confession
Assurance of Pardon

Chris Senger

We Listen to God

*Hymn of Preparation "Simple Kingdom"
(Cody Carnes, Paul Duncan, Bryan Torwalt & Katie Torwalt)

**Your kingdom is simple, as simple as love.
You welcomed the children, you stopped for the one.
We want to see people the way Jesus does.
Your kingdom is simple, Lord, teach it to us.**

**Your kingdom is humble, as humble as death.
Its king is a Saviour, who gave his last breath.
So may we die daily, our pride laid to rest.
His kingdom is humble and the broken are blessed.**

Refrain:

**Hallelujah! Hallowed be your name.
May we live and breathe your praise.
O Lord Jesus! Let all creation say:
"O, the King of Heaven reigns."**

**Your kingdom is coming, your kingdom is here,
Alive in our waiting, our work and our tears.
So come to us quickly – forever our prayer.
Your Kingdom is coming, Lord Jesus come near.**

**Your kingdom is backwards, Lord, teach us to serve.
What you call a treasure, this world calls a curse.
The small become great and, the last become first.
As it is in your kingdom, let it be with your church. *(Refrain)***

Old Testament lesson: Deuteronomy 11:8-15 (p. 168, Old Testament section)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 138

Leader: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

All: Before the gods I sing your praise;

Leader: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

All: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

Leader: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

All: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

Leader: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

All: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

Leader: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;

All: Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

*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: Matthew 22:34-46 (p. 25, New Testament section)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Greatest Commandment”

Adoniram Holtslander

We Respond to God

*Hymn of Response

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#1

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

Prayers of the People

Joel Russell-MacLean

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

*Hymn for Departing

“Be Thou My Vision”

#382, vs 1 & 4

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won;
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

*Benediction

Adoniram Holtslander

Music for Departing

Xavier Russell-MacLean

Following the service, you are invited outside for “Lemonade in the Shade”—an opportunity to fellowship with one another and enjoy some refreshments together.

Parents: Please go to meet your children in the nursery and/or children’s classes, as they can only be dismissed into your care.

If you are visiting or just getting to know us, visit our welcome page:



To make a donation:



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