



# *Our Worship of God*

*March 17, 2024*

*9:15 am*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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*~ Fifth Sunday of Lent ~*

**Welcome**

Pastor Greg Hunt

**† Call to Worship (responsive)**

Why are you here?

**I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.**

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

**Why are *you* here?**

I am seeking God with my whole heart,  
with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.

**We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house.  
The door is open to you.**

Let us worship God.

**Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!**

**† Opening Songs**

Holy Water  
This is Amazing Grace

**† Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Pastor Greg Hunt

## **Gospel Reading**

Sydney Ludwig

### **Matthew 18:15-22**

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise be to Christ.**

## **†Song of Preparation**

O Come to the Altar

## **Call to Confession**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Holy God,  
We long to be lifelong learners.  
We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.  
Instead, we often live as if we know best.  
We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”  
Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.  
Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.  
Forgive us for the moments when we imagine  
that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.  
Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask,  
“How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave.  
Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity  
carry our faith into deeper waters.  
With hope and humility we pray, amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

### **Sharing Our Gifts**

<b>†Song of Gratitude</b>	True Colors (Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)
<b>Message</b>	Pastor Greg Hunt
<b>†Song of Response</b>	Make Room
<b>Life of the Church</b>	Pastor Greg Hunt
<b>†Benediction</b>	

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# Worship Notes

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ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER:

## Seventy-seven Times

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 18:15-22

*Digital painting*

In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproof, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints?

Forgiveness cannot happen in isolation and certainly neither can reconciliation nor restoration. The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, “Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times” (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.

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*Holy Water*, Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash CCLI License #1515189

*This is Amazing Grace*, Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham CCLI Song #6333821 CCLI License #1515189

*O Come to the Altar*, Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye CCLI Song #7051511 CCLI License #1515189

*True Colors (Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)*, Lyrics by Alanah Sabatini and Ashley White Music by Alanah Sabatini

*Make Room*, Evelyn Heideriqui, Josh Farro, Lucas Cortazio, Rebekah White CCLI Song #7122057 CCLI License #1515189

Readings for Worship by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, March 17

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:15 pm Fellowship Ministry Lunch at Arris’ Pizza
- 6:00 pm The Gathering in the College Ministry Room

## Monday, March 18

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Tuesday, March 19

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

## Wednesday, March 20

- 5:30 pm The Calling Dinner
- 6:00 pm The Calling Meeting
- 6:30-7:30 pm Chancel Bells

## Thursday, March 21

- 10:30 am First Baptist Women’s Zoom Book Study

## Friday, March 22

- 6:00 pm First Baptist Game Night in the Parlor

## Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm The Ordination of Caleb Cooke

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# Announcements

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## Visitors

If you are visiting, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, you can fill out a connection card at the welcome table, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at [fbc-columbia.org/connect](http://fbc-columbia.org/connect).



## First Baptist Fellowship Table

Fellowship is at the heart of knowing and caring for ourselves and others. As a way to connect across both services, we are bringing back our “Fellowship Table.” If you are able, please see the sign-up sheet at the table to volunteer to serve (the table can be as simple as coffee and donuts or...as elaborate as you would like it to be). If you would like to contribute funds for the Fellowship Table, the “Dollars for Donuts” jar is on the Fellowship Table or note checks in the memo line for “Fellowship Table”. Contact Sherry Wyatt for questions: (573) 819-2380 or [sherrywyattrn@gmail.com](mailto:sherrywyattrn@gmail.com).

## First Baptist Search Committee Update

Following a church-wide business meeting on March 3, the following seven people were voted as the 7 at-large members of the Pastor Search Committee: Lexie Arnold, Jen Boeckman, David Chang, Donna Ostercamp, Jason Tratchel, Mark Thomas, and Julie Walker. They join the 7 team representatives: Dolores Shearon (Congregational Care Team), Beth Marchbanks (Teaching Team), Jon Ludwig (Missions Team), Noah Hartsfield (Telling Team), Mychel Varner (Racial Justice and Inclusion Team), and Charles Hunter (Administration Team). We ask for you to pray for this committee as they follow the Spirit’s guidance in the search for our next Senior Pastor.

## Fellowship Lunch – Today, March 17

The Fellowship Ministry Action Group is excited to announce the return of the St. Patrick’s Day Italian celebration. Join us following Traditional Worship for lunch at Arris’ Pizza (1020 E Green Meadows). Italian on St. Patrick’s Day was an idea that Paula Thomas produced about 15 years ago to switch things up and the tradition has been going strong ever since. RSVP to Paula [paulalou52@gmail.com](mailto:paulalou52@gmail.com)

## First Baptist Game Night – Friday, March 22

Calling all board game enthusiasts! Join us at 6:00 pm in the parlor for our Board Games Night. Whether you're a strategic mastermind or a casual player, this event is for you! Come and indulge in an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. Grab your favorite board game and challenge your friends to a thrilling match. From classic favorites to modern gems, there will be a wide variety of games available for all tastes and skill levels.

## Good Friday - Friday, March 29 in the Fellowship Hall

On this Holy day, we are paying close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus' final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to messing up, fighting, denying, leaving, and seeking safety for himself. But aren't we all? On Friday, March 29, you are invited to join us for our Good Friday Service, where we will reflect on Jesus' final days and lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love. This service will be more experiential and therefore will only be available in person. For those who are unable to attend, but would like to observe Good Friday, a take-home liturgy will be made available.

## First Kids Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 30

Join us Saturday, March 30 at 10 am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Kids are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for Easter snacks and crafts before our egg hunt takes place at 10:30 am. Kids will be divided into groups for age-specific hunts. Following the egg hunts, families are invited to participate in lawn games and 9 square.

## Easter Sunday - March 31

Although we are still in the throes of Lent, Easter is coming! Join us, on Sunday, March 31 at 9:15 am Awakening Worship and 11:15 am Traditional worship as we celebrate the risen Christ. During the Spiritual Formation Hour, we will have pastries and coffee to share, and if the weather is nice, we will even have some tables out on the front lawn. Small groups will still gather, and you are welcome to bring your treats there! We look forward to singing many Alleluias as we celebrate the resurrection!



Ordination of Caleb Cooke  
Sunday, March 24

5:00 pm

It is with great excitement that we announce the Ordination of Caleb Cooke. All are invited to the ordination service on Sunday, March 24, at 5 pm. Reception to follow. We encourage those who are unable to attend to send cards to the church with words of affirmation for Caleb.

First Baptist Book Club

After a short hiatus, First Baptist Book Club will be returning soon! Led by Pastoral Resident Caleb Cooke, the First Baptist Book Club will seek to gain insight into the Christian experience from a variety of powerful voices. The first book on the docket is *God Is a Black Woman* by Dr. Christena Cleveland. This book recounts Dr. Cleveland's

journey to liberate her identity and faith from the "whitemalegod" and to uncover what she calls the "Sacred Black Feminine," i.e., the Black Female God who embodies liberation, healing, and hope. If you are interested, please email Caleb at [ccooke@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:ccooke@fbc-columbia.org). First Baptist Book Club participants are asked to purchase the book independently.



## ForColumbia 2024 – Register Today!

First Baptist is excited to announce that we will be partnering with ForColumbia again this year! ForColumbia was founded in 2015 to bring Christians together to freely share the love of God by serving our community, side-by-side. They do this by organizing volunteers from churches throughout mid-Missouri to serve individuals, non-profit organizations, and other public venues in an annual city-wide day of service. ForColumbia will be April 27 from 9am to 2pm. If this is not your first time serving with us, note, there are a couple of changes to this year's ForColumbia. Rather than having two work slots, the day of service will go from 9am to 2pm. Childcare will be provided the entire time. More information will be coming soon on the projects in which First Baptist will be directly involved. Registration is open!



## New Combined Class during Spiritual Formation Hour

Beginning April 14th, there will be a combined class offered in the parlor during the Spiritual Formation hour called "Reclaiming Paul: Embracing a Progressive Understanding." Led by Pastoral Resident Caleb Cooke, this class will redefine and reclaim important concepts in Paul's letters such as mission, justice, grace, love, participation in Christ, and more. In this class, we will see that, above all, Paul seeks to transform the body of Christ into a justice-oriented, Spirit-filled people whose unity in Christ transcends earthly divisions through inclusion, not omission; in other words, Paul preaches *unity without uniformity*. The class will be discussion-based and a great opportunity to connect with folks you may not see very often.





**First Baptist Church**  
columbia, mo

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*Rev. Dr. Greg Hunt*, Interim Senior Pastor  
*Rev. Brittany McDonald Null*, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation  
*Caleb Cooke*, Pastoral Resident  
*Jonathan Ray*, Music Director-Traditional Worship  
*Shelby Myers*, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director  
*Colleen Ostercamp*, Pianist and Organist  
*Noah Hartsfield*, Handbell Director  
*Susan Goudie*, Administrative Assistant  
*Brenda Rice*, Administrative Assistant for Web, Facilities, and Arts  
*Mike Ide*, Custodian  
*Nellene Martin*, Childcare Director