



Our Worship of God

August 23, 2026

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

*Today's worship theme explores how we view God and treat others. At some point in the service today, we invite you to take a piece of paper and fill it with a prayer that is on your heart, or a prayer for an **area of your life where you need a little bit of extra courage from God**. This prayer could look like sentences, one word, a picture, or a combination of them all – let your heart and the Spirit guide you!*

Gathering Chime

*As the bell is chimed, we invite you to pause, center yourself,
and prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Prelude

Allegro from Symphony IV
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

William Boyce

Welcome

Pastor Kristin McAtee

†Call to Worship (responsive)

We come to worship today,
 trusting in God's guidance.
We come to worship today,
 with courage to proclaim God's love.
We come to worship today,
 listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit.
 Come, let us worship God together!

†Opening Hymn 612

How Firm a Foundation

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Blessing of the Backpacks (responsive)

Pastor Brittany and Pastor Hayden

All starting or returning to school are invited forward for a blessing.

Together, we celebrate the start of a new school year.
Together, we ask God to bless students, educators, and support staff.
 May this next year be filled with joy!
 May our schools be places
 of possibility, care, nurture, and discovery.

Students,
May you learn and grow this year.
May you be filled with God's peace when you are nervous.
May you find new friends, new favorite subjects,
and new ways to share God's love.
May you grow in faith, curiosity, and kindness.

Students: Be with us, God.

All: You are children of God, and we love you.

Educators,
May you have hearts of compassion for all students,
knowing that your love may be the most felt that day, week, or year.
May you be a welcoming and calming presence to kids
as they discover who they are, make mistakes, and look for advice.
May you feel God's assurance when hard days pull you down.
May you feel important and necessary.

Educators: Be with us, God.

All: You are children of God, and we love you.

School staff,
May you know that the work you do matters.
May you feel God's love as you care for students, families, and one another.
May you have patience on the long days, compassion in difficult moments,
and joy in the small things.
May you see the ways your presence, your care, and your work help make
your school a place where children can learn and flourish.

School Staff: Be with us, God.

All: You are children of God, and we love you.

When we fill these bags with books, binders, sandwiches, and pencils,
Be with our minds as they grow in learning,
Be with our hearts as they grow in compassion,
Be with our souls as they grow in expressing love.
Be with our bodies as they grow in enacting justice.
May God's love, Jesus' justice, and the Holy Spirit's wisdom
be carried along with each bag.

All: Be with us, God.

May this next year be a time full of learning, growth, friendship, wisdom, and
peace. And may God's love be woven throughout it all. Amen.

Responsive Scripture Reading

Mark Thomas

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

They replied,

“Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said,

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I’ll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won’t be able to stand against it. I’ll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Pastor Kristin McAtee

God of Mercy,
you invite us to follow the way of Jesus

a way of love, compassion, courage, and self-giving.

Like Peter, we confess that Jesus is the Christ,

yet we do not always understand what it means to follow him.

We want to follow, but resist when the way becomes difficult.

We choose our own way when following Jesus asks more of us.

Forgive us for the times we name Jesus with our lips

but fail to follow with our lives.

Shape our hearts to desire your way,

and give us courage to follow where Jesus leads.

Forgive us, God of Mercy.

Teach us to follow the way of Jesus.

Assurance of Grace

Special Music

‘Tis the Old Ship of Zion arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Intergenerational Summer Bells

Sharing Our Gifts

Anthem

Where Charity and Love Prevail

by Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir

featuring Becki Forsee, piano & Colleen Ostercamp, flute

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found.

Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;

Let us with heart and mind and strength now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other's fault as we our faults confess;

And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all our fighting cease;

Be Christ the glory that we seek. Be ours His holy peace.

Message

Pastor Hayden Dennis

†Hymn of Response 593

The Gift of Love

Life of the Church

Pastor Hayden Dennis

†Benediction

Beloveds of God,
as you leave this place,
go knowing that you are called by God.
Go loving God with all that you are,
and go loving your neighbor as yourself.

†Postlude

Halle, Hallelujah
Caribbean melody
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. J. Behnke

Worship Notes

How Firm a Foundation, Words: *Rippon's Selection of Hymns*, 1787; sts. 2-5 from Isaiah 43:1-5. Music: Traditional American melody; *Funk's Genuine Church Music*, 1832.

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You, Words: Georg Neumark, 1641; tr. Catherine Winkworkth, 1863. Music: Georg Newumark, 1657.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, Words: William Williams, 1745; tr. Peter Williams and William Williams, 1771, 1772. Music: John Hughes, 1907.

The Gift of Love, Words: Hal Hopson, 1972; para. of 1 Corinthians 13. Music: Hal Hopson, 1971; based on Traditional English Melody.

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 23

Promotion Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks

- 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
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, August 24

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, August 26

- 6:00 pm Youth Begins in the 3rd Floor Youth Room

Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

- 6:00 pm Game Night in the Parlor

Sunday, August 30 – Fall Kickoff

- 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
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:30 pm Fall Kick-Off on the Front Lawn

Announcements

Welcome 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 from the pew back, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at fbc-columbia.org/connect



A Note from Pastor Kristin

During the heavy rains earlier this summer, it became apparent that the flat roof over part of the sanctuary was in need of replacement. The Trustees promptly obtained bids for the work and selected the contractor they believed would best meet the church's needs. We contracted with Nailed It Roofing and were placed on their schedule. Then we received nearly five inches of rain in a single day.

Although the roof replacement is scheduled for next week, the storm caused significant water intrusion. We are deeply grateful to our staff, as well as Mike Giovanini and Pete Walter, who quickly responded by vacuuming water, mopping floors, and moving items out of harm's way.

Since then, we have discovered mold growth in the old choir room and several storage areas around the sanctuary due to the warm, damp conditions. At this time, there is no evidence of mold in the sanctuary itself. Once the new roof is installed, we will begin the remediation process.

As we gather for Traditional Worship this Sunday, we encourage everyone to consider their individual health needs. Those with allergies, respiratory concerns, or heightened sensitivities may wish to attend the 9:15 a.m. Awakening Service, worship remotely, wear a mask during Traditional Worship, or choose another option that feels appropriate. Masks will be available, and doors to the affected areas will remain closed to minimize exposure.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and prayers as we work through this situation and care for our church facilities.

-Pastor Kristin

Youth Begins August 26

Wednesday Night Youth starts August 26 from 6:00-7:15, 3rd floor Youth Room. Our Youth Ministry is for all students in 6th-12th grade.

Fall Kick Off – August 30– Front Lawn at 12:30 pm

As summer winds down, we're getting ready for our annual Fall Kick-Off! This fun event is a great opportunity to connect with others, enjoy good food, and play lawn games together.

The church will provide the main dish, beverages, and tableware. You're invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. In addition to great conversation and food, we will have our favorite games like 9-square, gaga ball, cornhole, and a bounce house. We can't wait to welcome a new season with you!

New to the Pew Blessing - August 30

With the beginning of the new school year, we are excited to welcome our newest worshippers to the pews and seats. On Sunday, August 30, during both worship services, we will be presenting a Bible to our first graders and offering a blessing to them and their families. As a church community, we want to celebrate this milestone and commit to accompanying our kids in their faith.

More Opportunities to Ring and Sing Are Coming to FBC!

Beginning **Wednesday, September 9**, the Chancel Bells and Chancel Choir will be making some changes in their schedule. These changes are intended to bridge gaps, offer more opportunities, and further unite our entire church family! Please see our new Wednesday rehearsal schedule below:

6:00-7:00 - Chancel Choir in the choir loft

7:15-8:15 - Chancel Bells in the transept (that's the regular rehearsal spot)

Also, in order to serve our long-standing members of the chancel choir, **we will continue to have our normal 9:10 rehearsal every Sunday morning** in the choir loft!

The additional Wednesday rehearsal means many positive things:

- *Friends who normally attend Awakening but wish to sing in choir can now attend Wednesday rehearsals and feel comfortable singing the anthem on Sundays.
 - *Choir members who would like to attend Awakening can now do so while still getting a rehearsal on Wednesday evenings.
 - *Our Awakening and Traditional music teams can now collaborate in ways that were not possible before.
 - *Choir members will have more space to ring with the chancel bells and bells ringers will have more space to sing in the choir.
 - *More rehearsal time means everyone feels that much better about our musical offerings each week.
- If you've ever even considered joining an ensemble, now is the perfect time! You can rehearse on Wednesdays and sing on Sunday or just come on Sunday (or both!) The important thing is that you have an opportunity to join a loving musical family and use the gifts that God has given you.

Also, if you attend Wednesday Night Youth from 6:00-7:15, this adjustment can allow you to ring bells!

And, as always, all are welcome. All ages. All backgrounds. All ability levels. All means everyone. All means you.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? You are always welcome to reach out to Jonathan and/or Noah.

Now then...With a song in your heart and/or a bell in your hand, we'll see you in the sanctuary!

Fall Faith Formation for Adults

A new season of Faith Formation is beginning this fall! We're trying a new format with a variety of opportunities to learn, reflect, and connect. This fall, we'll offer **two six-week sessions**, giving you the chance to explore different topics and experiences throughout the season. You're invited to choose the space that interests you, or try something new! **All groups meet during Spiritual Formation Hour at 10:15 a.m.** Wherever you are in your faith journey, there's a place for you this fall. Come learn, wonder, reflect, and grow with us.

Session 1: August 30-October 4

Parables: Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place (6 weeks)

One of Jesus' favorite teaching tools throughout the Gospels is the humble parable. These short stories invite us to wonder, question, and imagine the nature of God's kin-dom.

For six weeks, we'll explore Jesus' parables using Josh Scott's *Parables: Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place*. We'll consider how Jesus' original listeners might have understood these stories and then wrestle together with what they have to say to us today. Each week, we'll explore a different parable or group of related parables, with our time focused on conversation and reflection.

The book is optional, and you're welcome to join us even if you can't make every week. This group is led by Noah Hartsfield and will be meeting in the Conference Room on the 2nd floor.

Guided Meditation with Rebekah (6 weeks)

Join Rebekah Robertson in the College Ministry Room for a gentle time of guided meditation, a quiet pause to breathe, unwind, and simply be. We'll slow down together, letting go of some of the noise and worry we carry in and making space to listen for God. Through meditation, we'll practice extending gratitude, kindness, and forgiveness into the world and toward ourselves. Come as you are, settle into a comfortable seat, and leave the hour a little lighter, a little more at peace, and a little closer to God.

The Discussion Class: *The Heart of Christianity*

August 23–November 1 | Parlor

This fall, the Discussion Class will explore Marcus J. Borg's *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*.

Together, we'll explore the contrasts between the vision of Christianity many of us grew up with and perspectives that have emerged within mainline and progressive Christianity. Along the way, we'll consider questions of faith and deconstruction, the changing landscape of the church, and the influence of Christian Nationalism. Through thoughtful conversation and reflection, we'll have the opportunity to deepen our own faith and understanding.

Join Pastor Kristin for a Spiritual Retreat – September 18-19

“To share our stories is not only a worthwhile endeavor for the storyteller, but for those who hear our stories and feel less alone because of it.” — Joyce Maynard

I had the joy of meeting Sandra Dorsainvil a few years ago. Together, we led a retreat for CBF student summer interns. Through the summer, we continued to mentor them. Sandra’s spirit of peace and renewal was a gift to me. We have remained in contact, and I often join her monthly retreats online. I’ve invited Sandra to come lead us for a short retreat at the Lay Center in Louisiana, MO. Together we chose a topic that leads us all into deeper self-awareness of how God creates us as beloved. It also gives opportunity for building community, welcoming one another’s true selves. You will experience multiple contemplative practices as we do the sacred work of sharing and receiving our stories. The retreat begins at 4pm on September 18th and concludes at 4pm on September 19th. This beautiful location is peaceful and contemplative. The cost is \$45 per person which covers your room and meals.

-Pastor Kristin

Register for the retreat by August 30th by contacting Pastor Kristin or the church office.

Notes

[illegible]



1112 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201

Rev. Kristin McAtee, Senior Pastor

Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families & Spiritual Formation

Rev. Hayden Dennis, Pastor of Youth & Community

Jonathan Ray, Director of Music

Shelby Pride, Director of Music & Worship Technology

Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist & Organist

Susan Goudie, Office Coordinator

Brenda Rice, Fine Arts & Community Liaison

Mike Ide, Custodian

Nellene Martin, Childcare Director