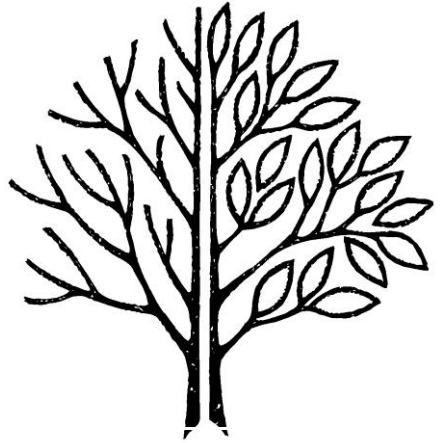


changing and becoming:

A Season for Everything

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026
10:30 AM**



Welcome to worship! We're so glad you're here at First Baptist.
If this is your first time visiting us, we have a small gift for you!
One of our deacons will find you at the conclusion of the service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Words spoken by the assembly are printed in **boldface**. Hymns can be found numerically in either the Red or Black hymnals.*

gathering

Prelude

Melodie No. 1
Anton Rubinstein, arr. Siegfried Karg-Elert

Welcome and Call to Worship

This is the day that God has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We come with bodies, minds, spirits, voices,
Praising the One who made us.

We welcome dancing, sitting, standing, and any other bodily expressions of worship.

The One who made us unbinds us to freely live and express.

We celebrate diversity and welcome the stranger.

Let us learn from each other how to praise God.

We praise God for the wonder of community and the gift of relationship.

We remember that we are not alone.

Gathering Song

Dear God of Life



1. Dear God of life, cre - a - tion is your glo - ry,
2. You have the love we need for our be - liev - ing,
3. Dear God of now, I bow my heart in won - der



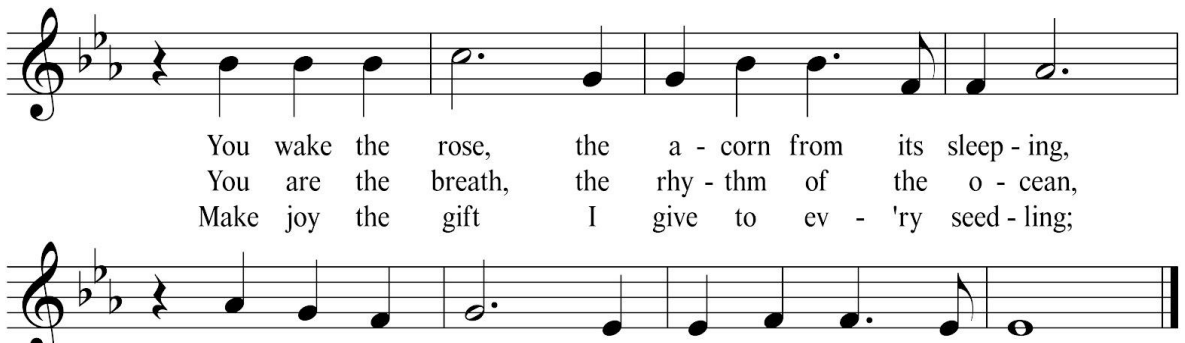
you know the way each ev' - ning will un - fold;
you do the words we pray by heart at night;
for all the good you know in - side of me.



you guide the stars, the an - gels be - yond heav - en,
you meas - ure hope be - yond all our per - ceiv - ing,
I ded - i - cate my life to love the oth - er;



you give each rain - bow beau - ties still un - told.
then break our bread as feast by can - dle - light.
oh, make my faith a light for all to see.



You wake the rose, the a - corn from its sleep - ing,
 You are the breath, the rhy - thm of the o - cean,
 Make joy the gift I give to ev - 'ry seed - ling;
 you warm our hearts as win - ter from the cold.
 the sum - mer green, and then De - cem - ber white.
 so grow my joy in - side your fam - i - ly.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering ©2003 Augsburg Fortress
 Tune: Finlandia, Jean Sibelius

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray. Heavenly God,
you have made everything
suitable for its time.
You have put a sense
of past and future in our minds,
yet we cannot find out what you have done
from the beginning to the end.
In this chapter of transition for our church,
send your Holy Spirit
to move in and around us
to comfort us,
surprise us,
and guide us
in the path of love and discipleship.
We are yours,
and we stand in awe before you.
Amen.

Word

Scripture

Psalms 139:1-18; 23-24

Read responsively by reader and **assembly**
Incorporating sung refrain "We are beloved" by Tim Gustafson

(Solo voice)

We are beloved of God.
We are beautifully made.
We are fiercely loved
and gently held.

- ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me
² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

(All singing)

**We are beloved of God.
We are beautifully made.
We are fiercely loved
and gently held.**

- ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ **If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ **If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,”**

¹² **even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

(All singing)

**We are beloved of God.
We are beautifully made.
We are fiercely loved
and gently held.**

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.**

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ **See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Hymn

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Red Hymnal #540

Guest Speaker Introduction

Transition Team

Sermon

Through Thick and Thin

Amanda Huff

Response to the Word

Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living)

Red Hymnal #536

community

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of peace with those around them.

Prayer Refrain

Hear our Prayer



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayers of the People

*Share your joys & concerns with us!
We incorporate these into prayer each week.
To view and submit prayers, **scan the QR code**
or visit **firstbaptistmadison.org/prayer**.*



Let us pray.

God of Refuge and Peace, when the world changes around
us and seems to move on without us,

You are there.

When families no longer welcome their own kin because of who they love
or because their body doesn't match who they truly are,

You are there.

When injustices slam into us one after another and our emotions rage
within,

You are there.

Indeed, O God, you are here.

Silence is kept.

We join together in echoing the words Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name

Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

sending

Sending Song

I've Got Peace Like a River
Red Hymnal #530

Transition Update and Announcements

Benediction

That which is already has been.
That which is to be already is. (*Ecclesiastes 3:15*)

God blesses your changing,
the Spirit joys in your becoming,
and the One who changed everything
walks with you and gives you peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, led by love.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Sortie" by Marcel Dupre

*Stop in the gathering space as you depart to participate
in our "Changing and Becoming" tie dye banner project! Ooh!*



Meet the Guest Speaker!

Amanda Huff was born and raised in Ames, Iowa where she attended Iowa State University and received her bachelor's in Linguistics. It is also where she met and fell in love with her now-wife, Emma. With their three cats, Momo, Fievel, and Marvin, they moved to Madison, WI in 2023 and have been attending First Baptist Church since October of 2023.

Amanda was enrolled at Fuller Theological Seminary but has since transferred to Iliff School of Theology in order to finish her Master of Divinity (Online). Her passion is in social justice and advocacy especially as it relates to LGBTQ+ issues and cultivating spiritual belonging within that group. In her (very) limited free time, Amanda enjoys learning how to cook new dishes, doing puzzles, and reading books on Christian living, social issues, ethics, and religion.



*Sincere thanks to Amanda
for preparing and sharing a message for us today!*

changing and becoming:

A Season for Everything

Background about our worship theme

From worship planners Sara Kelm, Linda McCarroll Stamm, and Zach Busch

A collaborative effort has been underway to shape a worship rhythm that will carry us through this season of transition following Pastor Tim Schaefer's departure.

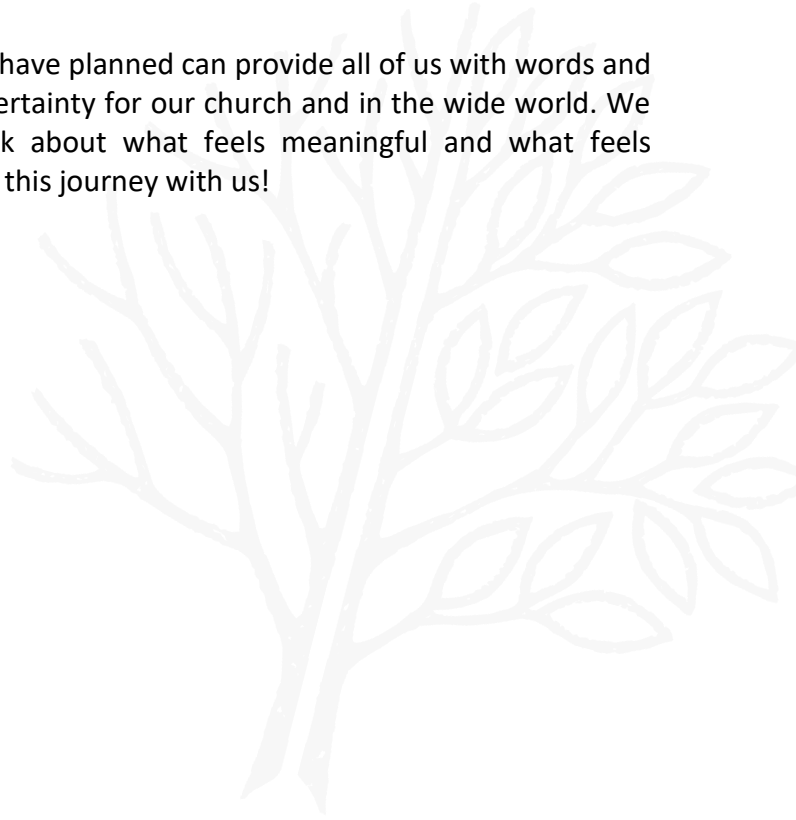
Sara and Linda, as part of the Transition Team, were tasked with securing and coordinating guest speakers to provide sermons for worship during this time without a pastor. Zach stepped into an expanded role in July to provide support, strategy, and coverage around worship planning and worship administration during the transition season.

As we gathered to plan, we imagined a worship season fashioned around Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, those beloved and poetic verses that ring so true. We wanted to find a thread that could weave through and bind together a season that might otherwise feel very off-kilter and disjointed. Though the first eight verses of this passage from Ecclesiastes are the familiar ones, we were struck by what follows in verses 8-15. The passage is rich with affirmation, yearning, challenge, and hope. We were delighted to discover that Pastor Tim had separately selected these verses as the basis for his final sermon! A Spirit-made connection.

We were also drawn to the Psalms since they are so expressive, emotional, and human. So many Psalms offer comfort and voice grief in a profound way. We compiled a list of Psalms or Psalm excerpts that seemed to fit into the thematic area of changing and becoming. We distributed this list to guest speakers, asking the speakers to consider all of these elements - theme, Psalms, Ecclesiastes - to bring a message that would be authentically them but would connect to a common thread.

Additionally, we decided that having certain elements of our usual worship liturgy recur verbatim week-to-week would be a simple and practical way to find some cohesion in this time. In some ways, this is a return to how some church worship “used to be” - where things were often the same and meaning was found in that structure. Think of it like comfort food: our Call to Worship, Invocation, Prayer Refrain, and Benediction will remain the same through this whole season. The benefit of this is that these words, phrases and melodies can sink in, meeting you each week exactly as you are and speaking to you afresh each time.

It is the group’s hope that what we have planned can provide all of us with words and ideas to lean on in this time of uncertainty for our church and in the wide world. We would love to hear your feedback about what feels meaningful and what feels challenging. Thank you for going on this journey with us!



Again, we extend a *special welcome*
to our guests and visitors.

There is always a place for you here!

Leading in Worship today

Our pastoral leadership is in transition at the moment. If you have pastoral care concerns, you can call the church office for assistance.

Preaching	Amanda Huff
Reader	Janet Reinke
Music	Zach Busch and FBC Choir
Sound	Kan Hua
Livestream	Morgen Loree



*We are always **seeking new volunteers** to lead in worship! If you are curious and interested in reading, serving communion, helping with audio for the service, or singing in the choir, please talk with staff, deacons, or email the church office.*

We seek to include the work of writers, composers, or artists in worship who are known to be members of historically marginalized communities. Sometimes this status is indicated by a [†], but these markings are not exhaustive. This is an intention imperfect in practice. We acknowledge that the work of equity and inclusion is never complete.

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Today's service has been livestreamed. Archived livestreams can be viewed on our YouTube channel - youtube.com/@FBCMAdison



**FIRST
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