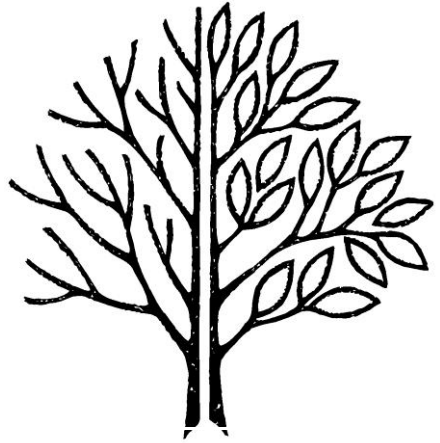


changing and becoming:

A Season for Everything

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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 **Fifteenth 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

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 all 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.

Join in thanksgiving for the wonder of community and the gift of relationship.
Remember and rejoice! We are not alone.

Gathering Song

God Is Truly with Us
Black hymnal #68

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

Psalm 23, music by Emma Lou Diemer

Today's Psalm is offered as a reflective reading with organ. Emma Lou Diemer's organ setting of Psalm 23 is based on her 1943 vocal setting of the text from the King James version. That translation is read to accompany the organ setting.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Scripture

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Guest Speaker Introduction

Transition Team

Sermon

On the Virtues of Wanting and Relinquishing

Mike Burch

Response to the Word

Shepherd Me, O God Black Hymnal

Refrain

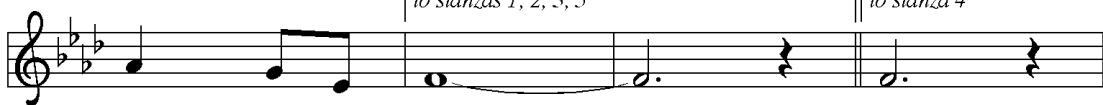
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5

to stanza 4



death in - to life.

life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent-ly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan-der the val-ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e-vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace.
spir-it shall sing the mu-sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



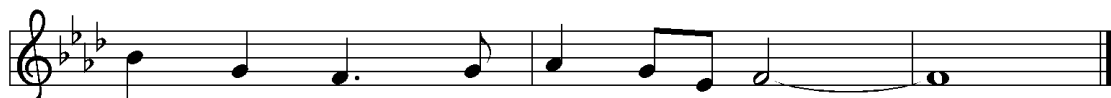
I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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community

Passing of the Peace

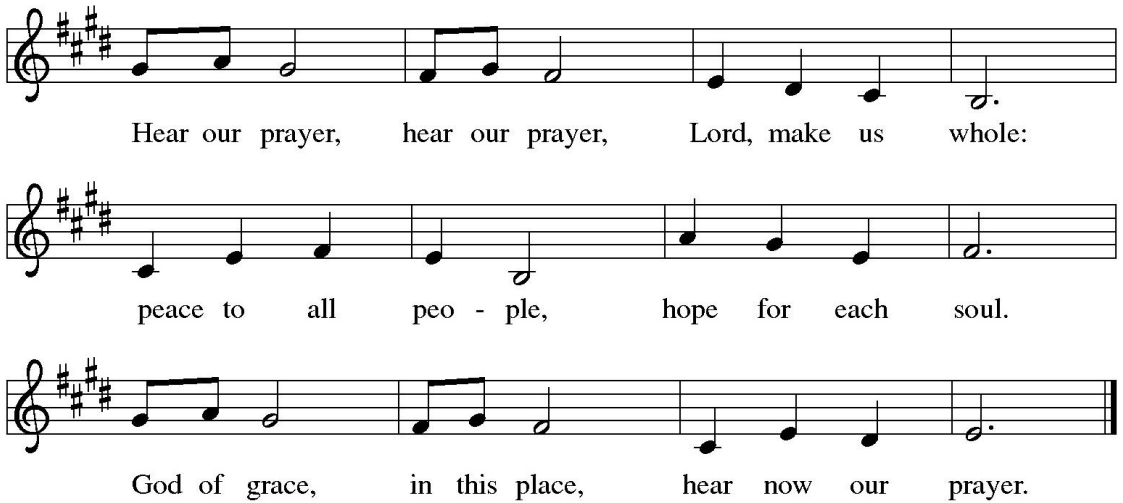
The peace of Christ be with you.

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 people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Address, 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**.*



Invitation to the Table

Communion liturgy adapted from *enfleshed*

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the One who guides our life together.

It is our joy to offer gratitude and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

...And so, in remembrance of Christ with us...we proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
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.

Pour out your Spirit on this community and these gifts. Make them a taste of your Kindom through Christ with us, that we might leave the Table both nourished by your Love and still hungry for justice for all your people. **Amen.**

Sharing the Meal

All are welcome at this table! Each of us is invited to take part in the feast.
Gluten-free bread and grape juice are served.
Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by either side aisle.
If you need to be served at your seat, simply give leaders a wave.

Song during Distribution

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of the melody is: 'Still wa-ters re - store my soul.' The second line of the melody is: 'Calm wa-ters re -'. The bass line consists of a series of chords and single notes that support the melody.

vive my spir - it. Still wa - ters re -

store my soul. My cup o - ver - flows.

Text and music: Rolf Vegdahl, based on Psalm 23

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise Christ, all creatures here below;
 praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 one God, triune, whom we adore.
 Amen.**

Sending

Transition Update and Announcements

Sending Song

Blessed Assurance

*With adaptations to Fanny Crosby's refrain
and new verses based on Psalm 23 by Zach Busch*

Blessed assurance, we're not alone:
Gathered together, each one God's own.
Jesus the Shepherd, tending this flock,
Jesus our Savior, Jesus our Rock.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is our story, this is our song,
Praising our Savior all the day long.

Walking the valley, shadowed and cold,
Sheltered by Jesus making us bold.
Turning to neighbor, taking a chance,
Joining together dancing love's dance.

Refrain

Surely God's goodness will follow me,
By the still waters resting I'll be.
Dwelling together, singing the song,
cozy in God's house we all belong.

Refrain

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



Meet the Guest Speaker!

Rev. Michael Burch is the Executive Director at *The Crossing* at UW-Madison. He serves on Faith Leaders Advisory Council for UW's Center for Interfaith Dialogue, and he initiated the new Justice Advocacy Collaborative at The Crossing, where student leaders build coalitions around specific justice issues.

Mike grew up in California but became an American Baptist in Wisconsin at First Baptist Madison years ago, thanks to friend and mentor Rev. Paul Gillespie. He later completed graduate degrees in the history of religions in the UC Berkeley-Graduate Theological Union joint program and at Brown University, where he taught and coached for many years. Mike was ordained in Rhode Island and served at *The First Baptist Church in America* in Providence. He later taught New Testament at *The Berkeley School of Theology* (ABC), while pastoring two churches in the SF Bay Area.



Rev. Burch has substantial experience in interfaith collaborations among Abrahamic traditions which continues to be a ministry emphasis for him. Mike has lived in Madison with his wife and daughter since 2023.

*Sincere thanks to Mike
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	Rev. Mike Burch
Reader	Mary Ray
Communion Prep	Susan Dean
	Rebecca Hebblewhite
Music	Zach Busch and FBC Choir
Sound	Robbie Gunshor
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



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