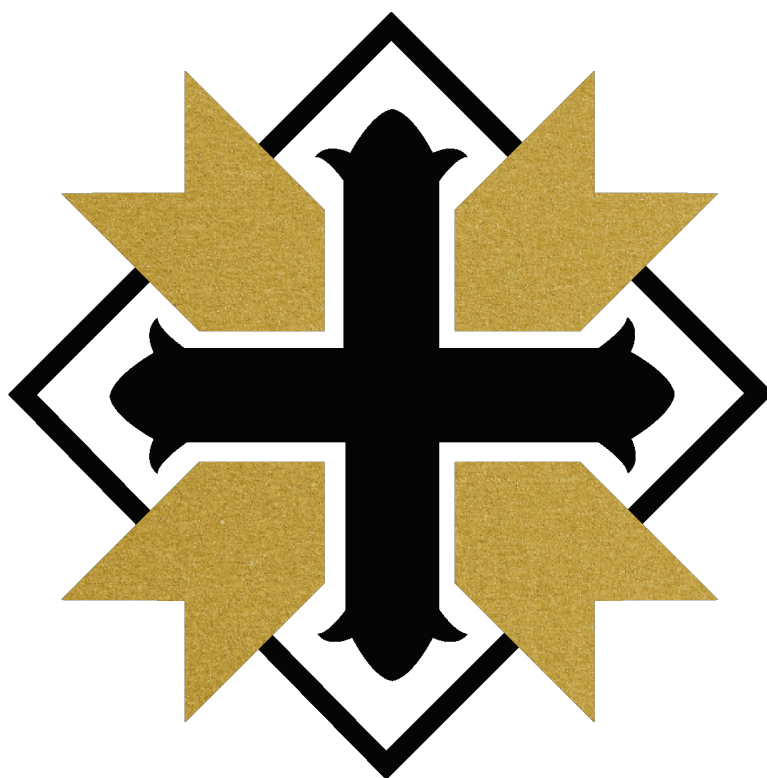


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Savannah, Georgia



May 7, 2023

*Historic | Liturgical | Vibrant*

## About Our Church

Welcome to First Baptist Church, an inclusive congregation that worships in Savannah's oldest standing church building. We believe Jesus treated everyone with a spirit of love and equality.

Therefore, we accept every individual without regard to age, gender, race, ethnicity, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, or socio-economic status. We affirm all persons as created in the image of God. At First Baptist Church, individuals can find family, families can find community, the injured can find healing, and all can seek truth and justice. We labor together in love for each other, our community, our world, and our God.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, **you are welcomed,**  
**you are accepted,**  
**you are loved.**

## Visitor Information

If you are a visitor with us today, we are delighted that you are here! Please fill out one of the visitor cards found in the pews and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. We would love to be in contact with you.

**\* Asterisks throughout the order of worship indicate the people standing, in body or in spirit.**

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day at Eleven O'clock

*Fifth Sunday of Eastertide*

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*Rev. Dr. Kyle T. Reese, Interim Pastor*

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRELUDE - "Variations on CRUSADERS' HYMN"  
*Savannah Flute Choir*

arr. Percy Hall

\* CALL TO WORSHIP - *adapted from Psalm 31*

Pastor: In you, Lord, I have taken refuge.  
People: **Let me never be put to shame.  
Deliver me in your righteousness.**

Pastor: Turn your ear to me.  
Come quickly to my rescue.  
People: **Be my rock of refuge,  
A strong fortress to save me.**

Pastor: Since you are my rock and my fortress,  
People: **Lead and guide me,  
For the sake of your name.**

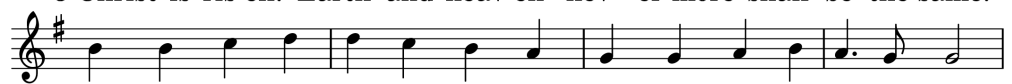
Pastor: Let your face shine upon your servant.  
People: **Save me in your unfailing love! Amen.**

\* HYMN - "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Tune: HYMN TO JOY



1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho - san-na! Cel - e-brate this day of days!  
2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav - erns of de-spair.  
3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev - er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won-der: all cre - a - tion is a-mazed.  
Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



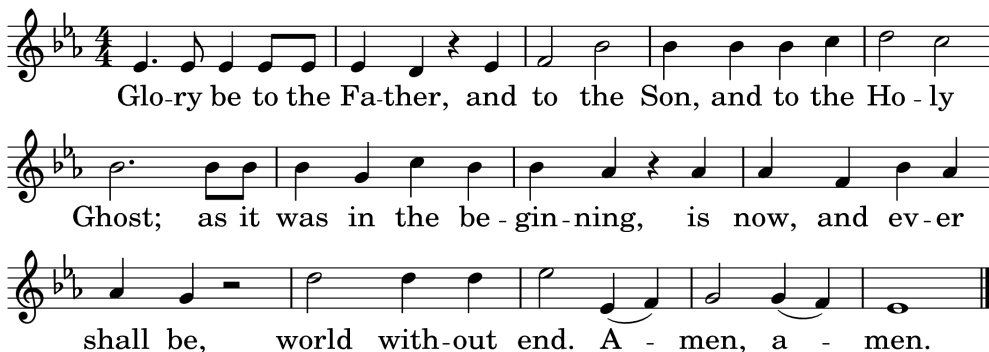
- Text by Brian Wren

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 Maker of heaven and earth;  
 And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 Born of the Virgin Mary,  
 Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 Was crucified, dead, and buried;  
 The third day he rose from the dead;  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 And sitteth at the right hand of  
 God the Father Almighty;  
 From thence he shall come to judge  
 The quick and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 The holy catholic Church,  
 The communion of saints,  
 The forgiveness of sins,  
 The resurrection of the body,  
 And the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* GLORIA PATRI

Tune: GREATOREX



- Text from Sixth-Century Doxology

*Liturgical Season*

*First Baptist Church follows the liturgical seasons of the Christian Year as a means of marking time together. We are currently in the season of Easter, the Great Fifty Days prior to Pentecost that celebrates Christ's resurrection and our triumph over death. The liturgical colors for the season are white and gold, symbolizing purity and joy.*

*The Apostles' Creed*

*Even though Baptists are not traditionally a credal people, historic creeds have been used from time to time as a means of affirming our faith together. We use The Apostles' Creed on this Eastertide Sunday because of its references to the resurrection and eternal life.*

*Children in Worship*

*Children are always welcome in the worship of our church. A calming room is also available on the first floor of the sanctuary building. Please ask an usher for assistance. Children are encouraged to find and circle the following key words from today's lessons in the order of worship: rock, fear, foundation, afraid, way and life. Crayons are available in the narthex.*



## Scripture Texts

*All scripture texts printed in the order of worship are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.*

## Statement on Language

*In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, First Baptist Church seeks to use hymns and liturgies that employ gender-neutral pronouns for both God and humanity. However, this is not always possible when using historic texts and poetry. Please note that these texts reflect the eras in which they were written, and do not necessarily represent our current theological understandings.*

## Artwork

*The artwork in today's order of worship is entitled, "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Artist Elizabeth Wang, describes the painting by stating, "Christ is our bridge to heaven - the only way across the gulf between earthly life and eternal glory."*

# WE LISTEN TO GOD

## FIRST LESSON - 1 Peter 2:2-10

*Bianca Raub, Lay Reader*

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," 8 and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## ANTHEM - "Peace I Give to You"

*First Baptist Church Choir*

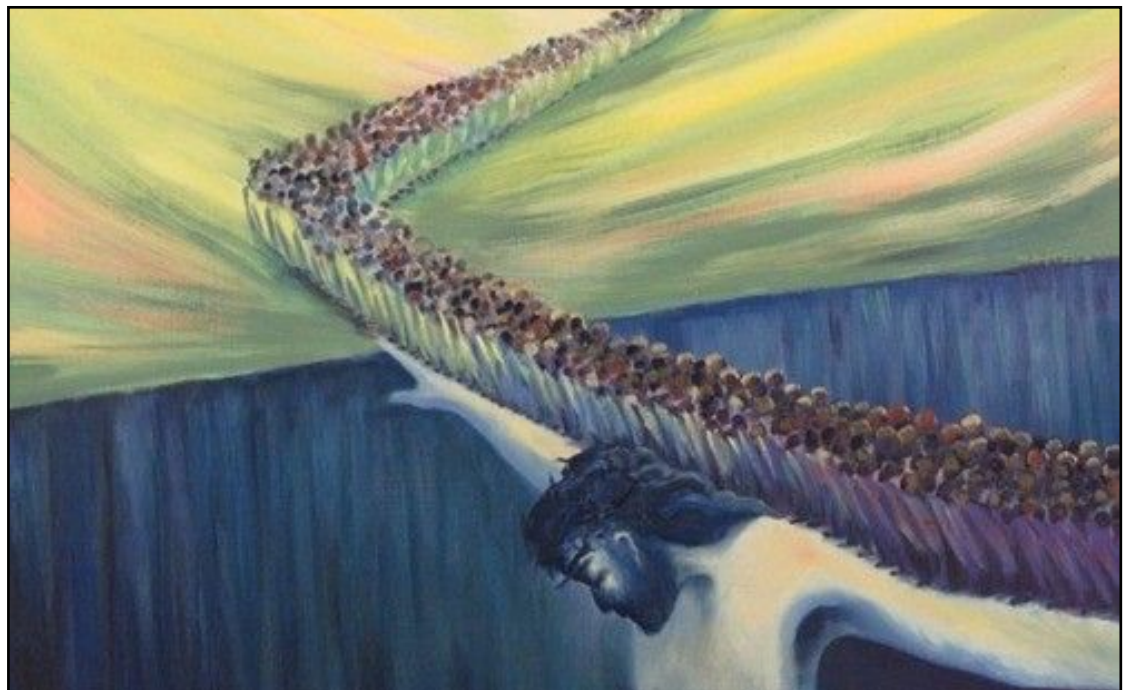
*Rev. James C. Richardson, Organ*

by Craig Courtney

*Peace I leave you. My peace I give you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Peace I give, I give my peace to you.*

*Let not your heart be troubled and fear not.  
In this world you shall have tribulations.  
Take heart! I have overcome the world!*

- Text from John 14



1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Pastor: This is the written Word of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - "On the Go"

*Rev. Dr. Kyle T. Reese, Interim Pastor*

\* HYMN - "Be Still, My Soul"

Tune: FINLANDIA

1. Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side; Bear pa-tient-ly the  
 2. Be still, my soul! thy God doth un - der - take To guide the fu-ture  
 3. Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on When we shall be for-  
 cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or - der and pro-  
 as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth-ing  
 ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are  
 vide; In ev - ery change God faith-ful will re - main.  
 shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
 gone, Sor-row for - got, love's pur-est joys re - stored.  
 Be still, my soul! thy best, thy heav'n - ly Friend  
 Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know  
 Be still, my soul! when change and tears are past,  
 Thro' thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 His voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.  
 All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Guest Musicians

*Today we welcome the Savannah Flute Choir, under the leadership of Erika Andres, to our worship. The Savannah Area Flute Association is a non-profit organization (founded in 2018) dedicated to providing flutists of all ages and abilities opportunities to perform and study the flute. It supports the flute choir; hosts events such as Flute Day, chamber music workshops, concerts, and recitals; invites guest artists to the area; and provides educational opportunities through masterclasses and lectures.*

Flowers

*To the glory of God, the flowers in the sanctuary are given in honor of Bridget Browne and in memory of Lt. M.C. Browne, Jr. by Thelma Browne.*

Prayer Requests

*If you have any prayer requests that you would like added to our prayer list, please place them in the offering plate or email them to the church office.*

Permissions

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## Music Notes

The Christian rock musical gained prominence in the 1970s with works like "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell." In that same tradition, Buryl Red and Ragan Courtney wrote "Celebrate Life" (1973) - one of the most popular pieces of Christian music of the last century. Of the musical's songs, "In Remembrance" is the most often sung, primarily because of its inclusion in hymnals. Courtney states, "I wrote 'In Remembrance' as a song to sing during the acting out of the last supper. I was a relatively new Christian, and all of my writings were erupting out of my newfound relationship with the Lord. I remember being concerned that the lyric was just a trifle, but Buryl's setting ennobled the words."

## Giving

If you would like to participate in worship by giving monetarily, you may place a donation in the offering plate as it is passed through the pews, scan the QR code, or click the GIVE button on our website: [www.fbc-sav.org](http://www.fbc-sav.org). You may also mail a contribution directly to PO Box 9551 Savannah, GA 31412.



# WE RESPOND TO GOD

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Following each petition of the prayer, the following response is offered.)

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,  
People: **Hear our prayer.**

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Tune: SHOWALTER

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the ev-er -  
last-ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near  
leaning on the ev-er-lasting arms. *Refrain* Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from  
all alarms; lean-ing, lean-ing, leaning on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

- Text by Elisha Hoffman

## OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY - "In Remembrance"  
First Baptist Church Choir  
Erika Andres, Flute

by Buryl Red

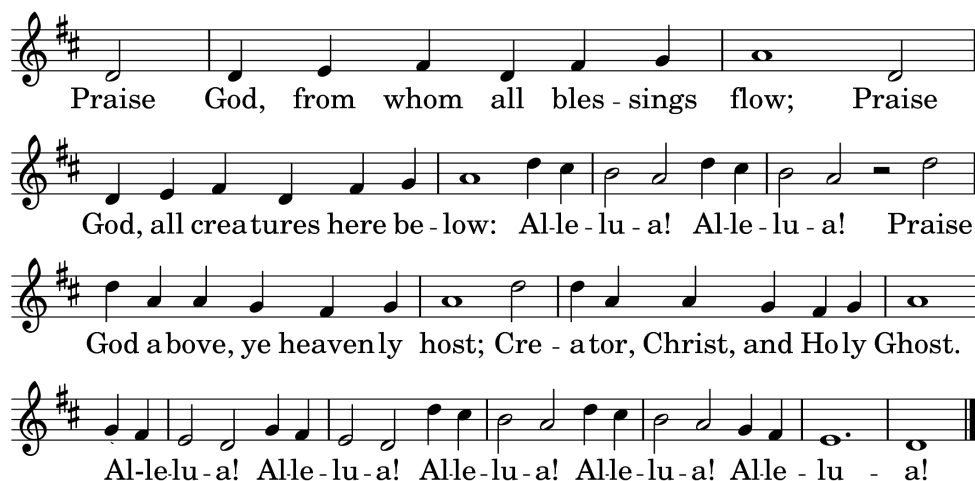
*In remembrance of me, eat this bread.  
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.  
In remembrance of me, pray for the time  
When God's own will is done.*

*In remembrance of me, heal the sick.  
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.  
In remembrance of me, open the door  
And let all others in - let them in.*

*Take, eat, and be comforted.  
Drink and remember, too,  
That this is my body and precious blood  
Shed for you, shed for you.*

*In remembrance of me, search for truth.  
In remembrance of me, always love.  
In remembrance of me, don't look above,  
But, look in your heart for God.*

- Text by Ragan Courtney



- Text adapted from Thomas Ken

## WE COMMUNE WITH GOD

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*Rev. Dr. Kyle T. Reese & Rev. Dr. Justin L. Addington, Celebrants*

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
 Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**  
 Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: .....and so, with your people on earth  
 And all the company of heaven  
 We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Pastor: .....as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died;  
 Christ is risen;  
 Christ will come again.**

## Holy Communion

*Following the communion liturgy, the deacons will pass the communion elements through the pews. Everyone is welcome to receive these gifts from God. The bread and the cup will be served separately, and we will partake of each element together after everyone has been served. The bread in the center of each tray is gluten-free.*

## Communion Silver

*The congregation of First Baptist Church had a schism in 1847. A new congregation was formed and became known as the Second Baptist Church. In 1859, the split-off congregation dissolved and reunited with FBC, bringing with them their communion silver. To this day, we still use a silver chalice that is engraved with the words "Second Baptist Church."*

## Restrooms

*The restrooms in our historic sanctuary are being renovated. Should you need a restroom, the ones on the first floor of the education building (directly behind the sanctuary) are available for your use. Please ask an usher for directions if you are not sure where to go. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.*



## Postlude

The postlude is the final “Alleluia” of our worship together.

The congregation is invited to remain seated for a brief moment of personal reflection and inspiration.

## Contact Us

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## 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 sins  
As we forgive those who sin 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.**

## PASSING OF THE BREAD & CUP

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

## WE GO TO SERVE GOD

\* HYMN - “Go Forth for God”

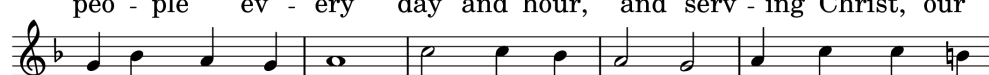
Tune: GENEVA 124



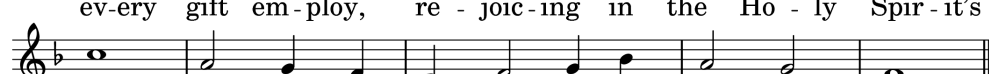
1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength-en the  
3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's



cour - age, armed with heaven-ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our



dai-ly to in-crease, till in the king-dom we see face to  
rich-ly from a - bove God's love sup-plies the grace and power we  
e-vil; Christ at length shall o - ver-come all dark-ness with his  
ev-ery gift em-ploy, re - joic-ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's



face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.  
seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love.  
light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.  
power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

- Text by John Peacey

## PASTORAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE - “Sinfonia” from *Solomon*  
Savannah Flute Choir

by George Frederic Handel