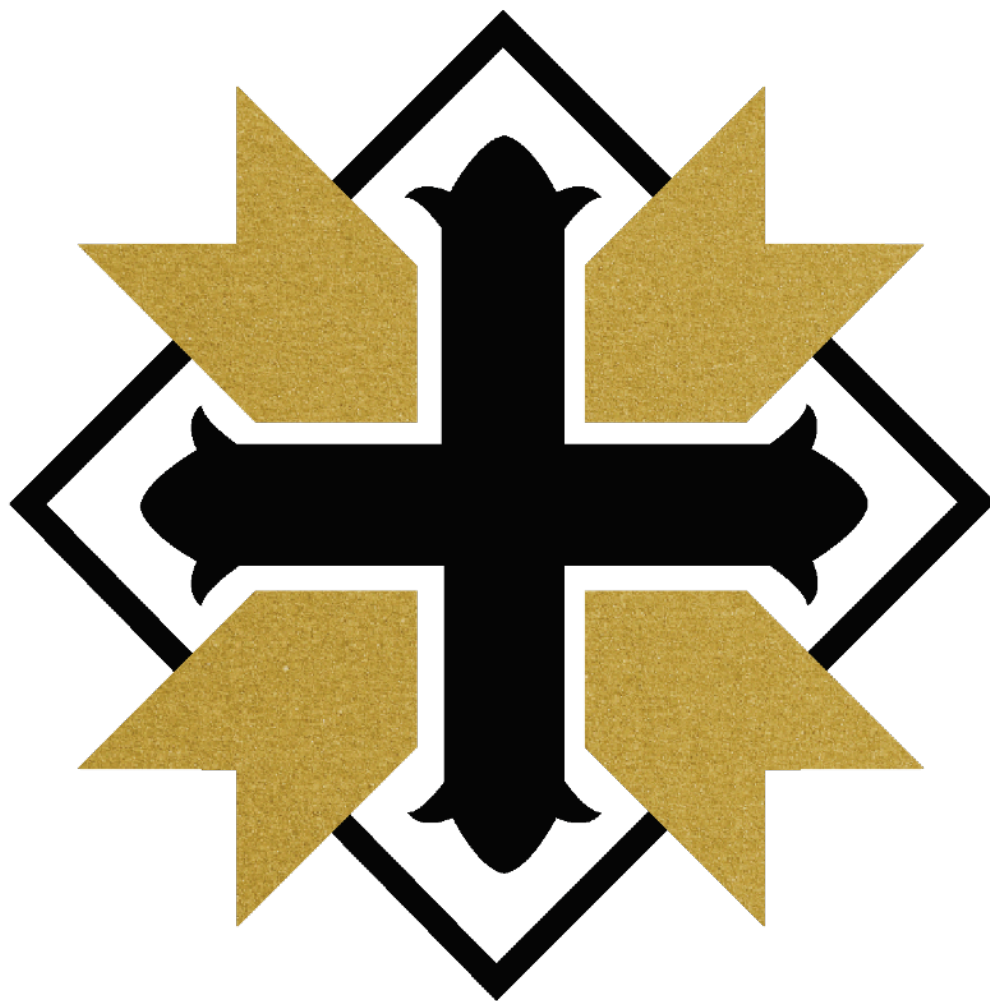


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Savannah, Georgia



April 24, 2022

Historic | Liturgical | Vibrant

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.

COVID Reminders

The diaconate has lifted the mask requirement for our church. Masks are now optional. However, if you have an underlying health condition, or do not yet feel comfortable being in public without a face covering, you are encouraged to continue wearing a mask. Thank you for understanding.

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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 24, 2022 at 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Eastertide

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & INVOCATION

Rev. James C. Richardson, Organist Emeritus

PRELUDE - "Trumpet Voluntary"

Dr. Justin L. Addington, Organ

by Gordon Young

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed.

Leader: Come, celebrate God in this sacred space.

People: Give praise for God's resurrecting power.

Pastor: Celebrate God in all places under heaven.

People: Let everything that has breath praise God. Amen.

* HYMN - "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Tune: ST. KEVIN



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!

2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pri-son,

3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,

4 Nei-ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,

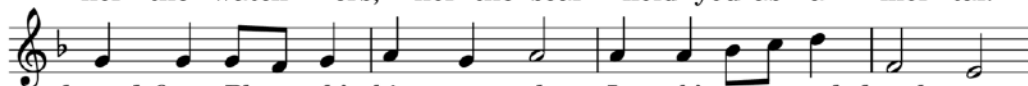


God has brought forth Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness,

and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris-en.

with the roy-al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren-der;

nor the watch-ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor-tal:

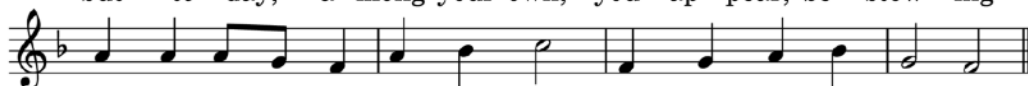


loosed from Phar-ah's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters;

All the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing

comes to glad Je-ru-sa-lem, who with true af-fec-tion

but to-day, a-mong your own, you ap-pear, be-stow-ing



led them with un-moistened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.

from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing.

wel-comes in un-wea-ried strains Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion!

your deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.

- Text translated by John Mason Neale

**We believe in an amazing God,
 Who surprised us on Easter morning,
 Who has the last word on death,
 Who never gives up on loving or working for good,
 Who weeps with us on the Good Fridays of our lives,
 And transforms our tears to Alleluias!**

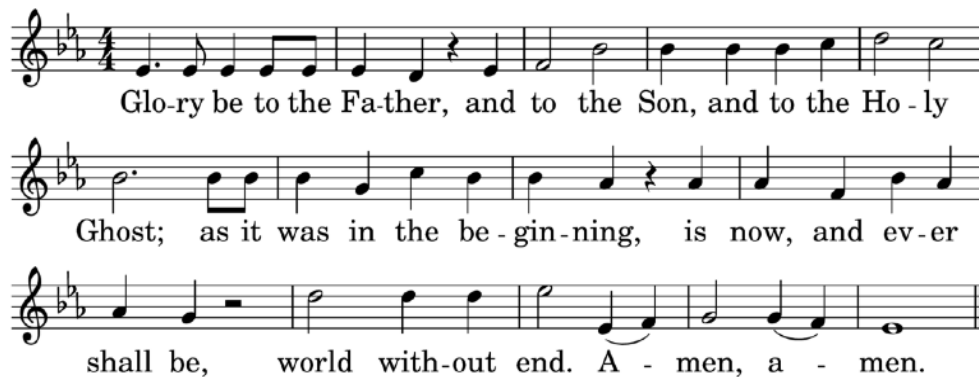
**We believe in the Risen Christ,
 Not confined to a tomb of despair,
 Nor buried in the past, but alive,
 And willing to walk with us on our journey.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
 The invisible presence,
 The divine wind of joy, hope, and possibility.
 We believe the Spirit creates a community;
 One of compassion, justice, and welcome,
 So that the whole world may be filled,
 Filled with wonder and hope.**

**We believe we are to live as an Easter people,
 Grinning with hope,
 Contagious with joy,
 And boundless in love.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

* GLORIA PATRI

Tune: GREATOR EX



- Text from sixth-century doxology

WE LISTEN TO GOD

FIRST LESSON - Revelation 1:4-8
 Norma Finley, Lay Reader

John to the seven churches in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given in honor of Dr. John Miller Finley by his children - Nathan, Matthew, and Rachel.

Children in Worship

A nursery is available during worship. It is located directly under the Sanctuary near the handicap entrance. Those children wishing to remain with their families during worship are welcome to do so.

Children's Page

The back page of the order of worship includes a worship-themed activity for children of all ages. Bags and crayons are available in the Narthex.

Scripture Texts

All Scripture texts printed in the worship guide are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

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 featured in today's order of worship is a sketch study on Doubting Thomas by Mary Hutchinson.

ANTHEM - "Be Joyful Together"

First Baptist Church Choir

Christopher Hendricks & Brian Martine, Recorders

by Johann Sebastian Bach

*Be joyful together;
O sing to the Lord.
The Lord is arisen,
Sing alleluia.
Be joyful and sing.*

*O come with thanksgiving,
The victory is won.
Through death we have life;
Yes, the battle is won.
We join all our voices;
We praise the Lord's name.*

- Text adapted from the Psalms

* GOSPEL LESSON - John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the written Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



SERMON - "Believing without Seeing"
Rev. Dr. John Finley, Guest Proclaimer

* HYMN - "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

Tune: MARTYRDOM

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gra - cious
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor fol - low
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief, and may our
4 That when our life of faith is done in realms of
words we hear of him who spoke as none e'er
where he trod; yet in his prom - ise we re -
faith a - bound; to call on you when you are
clear - er light may we be - hold you as you
spoke, but we be - lieve him near.
joyce, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
near, and seek where you are found:
are in full and end - less sight.

- Text by Henry Alford, alt.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. John Finley, Guest Proclaimer

After each petition of the prayer, the following response is offered:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken in Unison)

**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.**

Guest Proclaimer

Today we welcome Rev. Dr. John Miller Finley to the pulpit of FBC. Dr. Finley is the executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society. He holds degrees from Vanderbilt University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Finley served as Senior Minister of First Baptist Church, Savannah, from 1994 to 2017. If you would like to know more about Dr. Finley and his work, visit www.thebhhs.org.

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests that you would like added to our prayer list, please place them in the offering plate, type them in the comments section of the Facebook livestream, or email them to the church office.

Permissions

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Giving

If you would like to participate in worship by giving monetarily, you may place a donation in the offering plate near the doors of the sanctuary, scan the QR code, or click "online giving" on our website: www.fbc-sav.org. You may also mail a contribution directly to PO Box 9551 Savannah, GA 31412.



Music Notes

"My Savior First of All" is being sung today in honor of the Gospel account of Doubting Thomas. The words were penned by American hymn writer Fanny Crosby. Even though she was blind from six weeks of age because of improper medical treatment, she never revealed bitterness or depression. At one time a well-intentioned minister remarked to her: "I think it a great pity the Master did not give you sight," to which Fanny responded, "I would be born blind all over again." The minister asked, "Why?," and she answered, "Because when I get to heaven the first sight I will see will be that of my Savior." Although Fanny wrote over 8,000 hymn texts on many subjects, the theme of heaven was her favorite.

- Information adapted from Kenneth Osbeck

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Tune: TRENTHAM



- Text by Edwin Hatch

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY - "My Savior First of All"
Carol Melton, Solo

by John R. Sweney

*When my lifework is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And his smile will be the first to welcome me.*

*I shall know him, I shall know him,
And redeemed by his side I shall stand,
I shall know him, I shall know him,
By the print of the nails in his hand.*

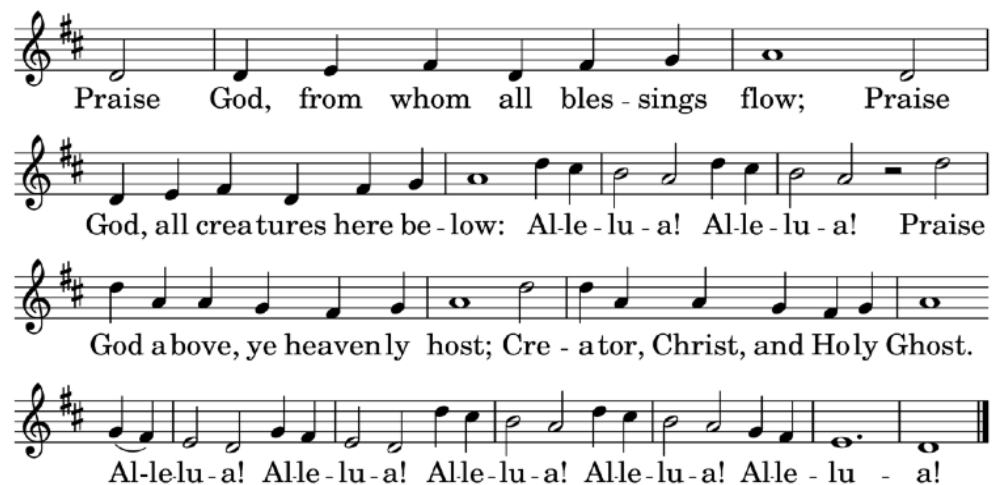
*Oh, the soul-thrilling rapture when I view his blessed face,
And the luster of his kindly beaming eye;
How my full heart will praise him for the mercy, love, and grace,
That prepare for me a mansion in the sky.*

*Oh, the dear ones in glory, how they beckon me to come,
And our parting at the river I recall;
To the sweet vales of Eden they will sing my welcome home;
But I long to meet my Savior first of all.*

- Text by Fanny Crosby

* DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN



- Text adapted from Thomas Ken

WE GO TO SERVE GOD

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Dr. John Finley, Guest Proclaimer

* HYMN - "Thine Is the Glory"

Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son;
2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ri - sen from the tomb;
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life!
end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.
lov - ing - ly he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom.
Life is naught with - out thee; aid us in our strife.
An - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,
Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing,
Make us more than con - querors through thy death - less love;
kept the fold - ed grave - clothes where thy bod - y lay.
for the Lord now liv - eth; death hath lost its sting.
bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy home a - bove.
Refrain
Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son;
end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won!

- Text translated by Richard Birch Hoyle

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Justin L. Addington, Minister of Music

PASTORAL BLESSING

Rev. Dr. John Finley, Guest Proclaimer

CHORAL RESPONSE - "The Resurrected Christ Be Your Guide"

First Baptist Church Choir

by Linda Hansen

*The resurrected Christ be your guide.
Go now in peace. Amen.*

- Text by Linda Hansen

POSTLUDE - "Welcome, Happy Morning"

Rev. James C. Richardson, Organ

arr. Wilbur Held

About Our Church

*First Baptist Church is a welcoming congregation located in historic downtown Savannah, Georgia. We believe Jesus treated everyone with a spirit of love and equality. Therefore, we accept every individual without regard to age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, 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.***

Postlude

The organ postlude is the final "Alleluia" to our Eastertide worship together. The congregation is invited to remain seated for a brief moment of personal reflection and inspiration.



www.fbc-sav.org

John 20 describes how Jesus met his friend, Thomas, with compassion and grace. Thomas wanted to see and touch Jesus before he would believe Jesus was truly alive! Jesus welcomes our questions and doubts! In the first box, draw a picture of Thomas and Jesus. In the second box, write or draw a question you want to ask Jesus.

