

First Baptist Church of Greensboro
The Worship of God

August 28, 2022

Summer Sabbath

June 12 — September 4

*God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested from all the work of creation.*

—Genesis 2.3

*Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days shall you labor
and do your work, but the seventh is a sabbath day to the Lord, your God.*

—Exodus 20.8

*“Come unto me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

—Matthew 11.28-30

A season of “Summer Sabbath” is evident as regular church life yields to an intentional time of rest and re-creation. The theme of Sabbath will be woven throughout the order of service encouraging all of us to “find rest for our souls.”

This period coincides with the sabbatical leave of Senior Pastor Alan Sherouse, and prayers for genuine rest and renewal are continually offered by the whole congregation for Alan, Jenny and the children. We will hear from a variety of preachers including our own associate pastors, ministers who call First Baptist their “home church,” and other guests.

Talented vocalists and instrumentalists from our own congregation will provide music leadership while our choirs take a break from regular rehearsals.

Yahweh is a Sabbath-keeping God, which fact ensures that restfulness and not restlessness is at the center of life. Yahweh is a Sabbath-giving God and a Sabbath-commanding God. Israel, for that reason, is always again to re-choose between “life and death” (Deut.30:15-20), between Yahweh and “the gods of your ancestors” (Josh. 24:14-15), between Yahweh and Baal (I Kings 18:21), between the way of Torah and the way of sinners (Psalm 1). Sabbath becomes a decisive, concrete, visible way of opting for, and aligning with the God of rest.

—Walter Brueggemann, *Sabbath as Resistance*.

Steeple Bells 10:30 am

Opening Sentences Rev. Courtney Willis

Voluntary Dr. Peter Swanson cello

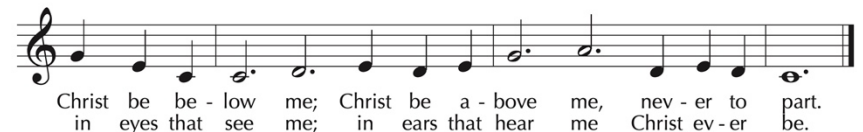
“Prelude from Suite No. 3” Johann Sebastian Bach

†Hymn of Praise 70

“God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him” ABBOT’S LEIGH

Words of Friendship Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Singing



(The Worshipping Church Hymnal, 543)

Back to School Blessing Rev. Starr Russell and Rev. Cherry

This summer we have rested, we have played, and we have taken time for sabbath renewal. Now we are drawn back together for a new school year.

In this new season, Jesus shows us the way to love and the Spirit gives life to our relationships, old and new.

We may have big feelings about this new school year. We may have fears, hopes, and dreams about what is to come. But together we can share the burdens and the gifts of this new season. (continued)

Together, we can create kindness and pursue joy.

Throughout this year, we may need to love loudly and at other times, love quietly.

Together, we commit to walk with each other when the road is hard.

Bumps and bruises may come this year. But also, great accomplishment and perseverance.

Together, let us celebrate with each other when life is good.

Let us also have courage to help when others do not have what they need. We ask God to fill us with loving-kindness for all who may not have access to education, supportive families, or safe homes.

Together, we join our hands and voices to lift each other up.

Students, educators, and administrators may you find comfort in the words of blessing prayed for you by our congregation:

(spoken by the congregation alone for the school community)

God, bless our students, educators, and administrators as they pick up the responsibility of education in this new school year. Help them carry it with grace, with patience for each other, and with hope for all the knowledge and experience that will be gained this year. May they be nourished by your love and flourish in and out of the classroom. May all be kept safe and healthy.

Together, we will pray, we will love, and we will support everyone in pursuit of education and growth.

Together, may our love for each other bring beauty to our world. Amen.

Ministry of Music Maggie Martin *soprano*, Dr. Swanson *cello*
"Lord of the Small" Dan Forrest

*Praise to the Lord of the small, broken things,
who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing,
who loves the lame child, and the wretch in the street,
who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.*

*Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid,
who girds them with courage and lends them His aid.
He pours out His Spirit on vessels so weak
that the timid can serve and the silent can speak.*

*Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill, who heals their afflictions,
or carries them till they leave this tired frame and to paradise fly,
to never be sick, and never to die.*

*Praise Him, O praise Him, all ye who yet live,
who've been given so much and can so little give,
our frail, lisping praise God will never despise:
He sees His dear children through mercy-filled eyes.*

—Johanna Anderson

Prayers of God's People Rev. Cherry

Scripture Lesson Rev. Melody Harrell
Acts 2.1-7

Prayer of Illumination Rev. Harrell

Sermon Rev. Sam Harrell
"Hearing New Voices"

†Hymn 717
"Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing" LONDONDERRY AIR

Stewardship Prayer Tammy Miller, deacon

Musical Offering Dr. Swanson *cello*
"HB to MB" James MacMillan

†Benediction Rev. Harrell

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God
in memory of **John Fisher** by his family.

Our guest preacher today, **Sam Harrell** served as Associate Coordinator of Global Missions with our denominational partner, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—a role in which he oversaw the work of CBF field personnel in 20 countries around the world. In July 2022 Sam became full-time Executive Director of Africa Exchange, the non-profit organization the Harrells founded, now in its 25th year of operation in Kenya. Sam was born and raised as an "MK" in Kenya, where he served most of his life, including 18 years alongside his spouse, Melody, and their three sons. Sam and Melody now live in nearby Hillsborough and worship often with First Baptist Church online.

We also welcome guest cellist **Peter Swanson** today. First Baptist Church hosted a recital by Peter in the spring and in return we benefit from his beautiful music leadership today.

GOD THE FATHER

70 God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him

God is love. 1 Jn. 4:16

1. God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in
 3. God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes thro'
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

WORDS: Timothy Rees, 1922, alt.
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 8.7.8.7.D.

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all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

717 Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing

And God . . . appointed him to be head over everything for the church. Eph. 1:22

Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing:
 Christ over all, our undivided aim.
 Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduring,
 wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
 We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
 the will that lacks the courage to be free,
 the weary labors, all but unavailing,
 to bring us nearer what a church should be.

Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,
 a true repentance and a faith restored,
 a swift obedience and a new possessing,
 filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
 We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
 unnumbered voices with a single prayer—
 the living water for our souls' reviving,
 in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

Lord of the church, we long for our uniting,
 true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
 one cross proclaiming and one faith reciting,
 one in the truth of Jesus and his word!
 So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
 one church triumphant one new song shall sing,
 to praise his glory, risen and ascended,
 Christ over all, the everlasting King!

Suggested tune:
 LONDONDERRY AIR, no. 109
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Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1976

