



First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for
The Worship of God
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 25, 2023

“They asked for power. They asked for the Holy Spirit to come. But they did not ask for this. This is real grace, untamed grace. It is the grace that replaces our fantasies of power over people with God’s fantasy for desire for people.”
- Willie James Jennings

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Reid Gilliam
“Variations on *THAXTED*” by Tom Trenney

Lighting the Christ Candle Tanner Baugh

Opening the Bible Peyton Petriskie

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix

by Rev. Thom Shuman

On an ordinary Sunday, we come to worship God:

we come, trusting God will speak to us; we come, hoping God will surprise us.

On this day, like every other day, we seek to follow Jesus:

we follow, believing Jesus will be with us; we follow, hoping Jesus will work through us.

On this day, we lift our souls to God's Spirit:

we open our hearts, that the Spirit may fill us; we open our hands, that we might be a gift to others.

†Hymn 77

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” LOBE DEN HERREN

†Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Rev. Courtney Willis

Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.

†Hymn 498

“I Love to Tell the Story” HANKEY

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Buck Cochran

New Testament Lesson Amelia Britt

Acts 8:26-40

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

“Loose in the World: What Prevents?”

†Hymn 563

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

All are invited to use this time to renew commitment to Christ and to Christian service. If you would like to become a member of this congregation, you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.

Called Church Conference

Stewardship Prayer Adam Barnes *deacon*

Offertory Summer Choir

“I Will Joyfully Sing in the Morning” Based on Psalm 59:16, Music by Mary McDonald
*I will joyfully sing in the morning; I will joyfully sing all the day; I'll sing praises to Thee in the morning, for the Lord is the strength of my day.
I will lift up my eyes in the morning; for the Lord will not turn me away; I'll sing praises to Thee in the morning for the Lord is the strength of my day.
I will sing. I will sing. I will sing of praises, his goodness to me. I will sing.*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Congregational Response

“Christians, Let Us Go and Serve Him” HOLY MANNA
*Christians let us go and serve Him, serve the One who gives us life.
Let us serve in love and power, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Serve in Love and serve in wisdom, reaching all we know and see.
Christians, let us go and serve Him, now and through eternity.*

†Postlude Reid Gilliam

“Oh, Worship the King” arr. Paul Laubengayer

Reid Gilliam returns as our guest organist this morning. He has served churches as an active substitute organist for 30 years and holds the Colleague certification with the American Guild of Organists. When away from the organ bench, Reid works for Truist Bank and enjoys time with his wife Natalie, daughter Meg, and dog Boomer in Winston-Salem.

This summer, our sermons focus on the book of Acts. As the gospels tell the story of Jesus, Acts tells the story of the Holy Spirit — how it inspired and enlivened the followers of Jesus to live by their hopes rather than their fears, to share freely and unhindered, and to move broadly and boldly with the love of God "to Jerusalem, to all of Judea, and to the ends of the earth." Join us for worship throughout this summer, as we remember how the love of God can be *loose in the world* through our lives and through the life of our church. Watch or listen to recent sermons at fbcgso.org/sermons



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