



First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for
The Worship of God
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 2, 2023

"The question for me is whether we still believe in a God who blows through closed doors and sets our heads on fire? Do we still believe in a God with power to transform us, both as individuals and as a people, or have we come to an unspoken agreement that our God is pretty old and tired by now, someone to whom we may address our prayer requests but not anyone we really expect to change our lives?"
- Barbara Brown Taylor

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Lighting the Christ Candle Palmer Shively

Opening the Bible Della Sherouse

Prelude Janice Hix and Penny Rowe *pianists*
"America the Beautiful" arranged by Rebecca Bonam

*America, America,
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control
Thy liberty in law.*

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Buck Cochran

by Beth Merrill Neel

A love that never ceases,

A creativity that designed the universe,

A hope that cannot be quenched,

A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

These are the things that are of God,

Then let us worship God.

†Hymn 72

"To God Be the Glory" TO GOD BE THE GLORY

†Passing of the Peace

Life of the Community Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Time for Children Rev. Courtney Willis

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

†Hymn 478

"My Savior's Love" MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

Prayers of God's People Rev. Sherouse

New Testament Lesson LJ Kesler
Acts 9:1-9

Sermon Amelia Britt *pastoral intern*

†Hymn of Response

"The Servant Song" BEACH SPRING

*We are trav'lers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let me be your servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let me be your servant, too.
I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

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.

Stewardship Prayer Gayle Wager *deacon*

Offertory Solo Shelby Moss *summer music intern*

"The Quiet Heart" words and music by John Ness Beck

The Lord's Supper Rev. Sherouse and Tammy Miller *deacon chair*

Communion Meditation Matt Messick

†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 Matt Messick

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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