



"The Sower"
by Vincent van Gogh

First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina gathers for
The Worship of God
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 8, 2023

Faith is rare, He must have been saying, prodigious, unique —
one infinitesimal grain divided like loaves and fishes,
as if from a mustard-seed a great shade-tree grew.
That rare, that strange: the kingdom a tree.
The soul a bird. A great concourse of birds at home there, wings among yellow
flowers. The waiting kingdom of faith, the seed waiting to be sown.
-Denise Levertov

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Baker Lawrimore

Lighting the Christ Candle Caleb Wall

Opening the Bible Warner Sherouse

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Voluntary Sanctuary Choir, Janice Hix *pianist*

"Sing and Be Not Silent" Based on Psalm 30; Music by Mary McDonald

†Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix

People of God, as it is in heaven, we come to worship the God who transforms
the shadows of our lives into full and vibrant light.

Come, Creator, and enliven our imaginations.

Siblings, as it is in heaven, let all living things now flourish.

Come, Spirit, and give us the breath of life.

Friends, as it is in heaven, let hope and joy be the sustenance of our souls and
bodies.

Come, Jesus, and walk before us that we might follow you.

Family of faith, as it is in heaven, may God be present with us now.

We lift our hearts to God! Amen!

†Hymn 52

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

†Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Community Rev. Buck Cochran

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 115

"Fairest Lord Jesus" CRUSADER'S HYMN

Prayers of God's People Rev. Chris Cherry

Gospel Lesson Rev. Courtney Willis

Matthew 13:31-32

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response

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.

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" BEACH SPRING

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship, not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

Missions Moment Gene Brown Executive Director, Community Housing Solutions

Stewardship Prayer Thom Little deacon

Choral Offertory Sanctuary Choir, Janice Hix pianist

"We Walk by Faith" Based on John 20:19-20; Words by Henry Alford; Music by Lloyd Larson

*We walk by faith, and not by sight. No ancient word we hear
from Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.
We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;
But in his promise we rejoice, and cry, "my Lord and God."*

*We Walk by faith and not by sight Led by God's pure and holy Light!
Prepare us for the journey, Lord, And may know your power and might,
We walk by faith and not by sight.*

*Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.
And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
May we behold you as you are with full and endless sight.*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Baker Lawrimore

Following our worship service, please join us in the fellowship hall for church conference and a light lunch.



**AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
SERMONS ON PARABLES IN MATTHEW**

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks of the "kingdom of heaven." But in describing it, he never asks people to leave their own world. He tells parables, referencing the grandest of visions with the most common and familiar elements, almost as if to remind his listeners that it is possible here and now. As he announces at the beginning of his ministry in Matthew, "the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Throughout October, our sermons will focus on some of the parables Jesus tells in Matthew, and how they point us to a vision for our world that Jesus spoke about, worked for, and taught us to pray for — a kingdom that he believed can come "to earth as it is in heaven."

OCTOBER AT FBC

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| 8 Church Conference | 17 Senior Adults NC State Fair Trip |
| 9-10 Staff Retreat | 22 Outdoor Worship |
| 10 Trail Tuesday | 24 Trail Tuesday |
| 11 Midweek | 26 Fall Bookclub |
| 13-15 Middle School Retreat | 29 Children & Youth Sing in Worship |



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO CONNECTIONS

October 8, 2023

CHURCH CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 8

Today after worship we will be having Church Conference and a light lunch. Our meeting will include updates from church leadership on the life and ministry of First Baptist Greensboro. Our regular conferences are an essential way members contribute to the work of our church, so we hope you will plan to be a part.

VOLUNTEER FOR FALL FEST | OCTOBER 28, 3-5 PM

October is here and we are making Fall Fest plans! Fall Fest is such a fun event for our church family and community. We need lots of volunteers to make it happen! There are so many ways to help - set up, make popcorn & cotton candy, work the stations, or clean up. Sign up at: fbcgso.org/fall-fest-2023 or scan the QR code!



LUNCH AND LEARN | Starting November 6 at Noon

The Senior Adult Council is pleased to offer a series of "Lunch and Learn" events featuring various topics for adults of ALL ages! Our first event, "How to Spot and Avoid Scams" will be held on Monday, November 6 from Noon - 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up now to reserve your lunch by going to: fbcgso.org/lunch-and-learn

MIDWEEK | Wednesdays, starting at 5:30 pm

- 5:30 pm | Dinner
- 6 pm | Children's Music, Missions, and Stories
- Midweek Youth
- Adult offerings
- 7:15 pm | Sanctuary Choir



Meal reservation deadline is the end of day on Monday each week. Next week we are having tacos! RVSP for meals at: fbcgso.org/midweek or contact Keighley Johnson (keighley@fbcgso.org) in the church office or scan the QR code!

TRAIL TUESDAY | OCTOBER 10 AT 7:30 AM

Trail Tuesday has a NEW time of 7:30 am. This way we don't have to hike in the dark. All are welcome to join us for Trail Tuesdays! Our next trail will be at Osprey Trail (4907 Yanceyville Rd, Browns Summit, NC 27214). Look for the purple FBC Loves You sign. Learn more about each of the trails and dates at: fbcgso.org/trail-tuesdays

FALL BOOKCLUB | October 26 at 5:30 pm

Join us for Bookclub this Fall! Our October book is "The Language of the Soul: Meeting God in The Longings of Our Hearts" by Jeff Crosby. You can purchase books at Scuppernong Books downtown (scuppernongbooks.com). If you need help getting a copy of the book, connect with Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org).

MUSIC MINISTRY SEARCH

Our Music Ministry Search Committee continues their work, searching for the next leader of Music & Worship of First Baptist Greensboro. The Committee is currently in the stage of receiving candidates. Interested candidates can visit fbcgso.org/musicsearch to apply, learn more about the position, and read information about the congregation developed by our Committee after recent Congregational Listening meetings. The Committee can also be reached by email at search@fbcgso.org.

ISRAEL TRIP | April 1-11, 2024

We are thrilled to be offering a trip to Israel in April of 2024! Come journey with First Baptist Greensboro as Rev. Courtney Willis and friend of the church, Dr. Jason Myers guide us through the historical and modern stories of Israel as we connect our faith to this important place. More information about the trip can be found on our info boards or talk to Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org).

PASTORAL STAFF

CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES

BUCK COCHRAN, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

SETH HIX, MUSIC (INTERIM)

ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR

AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE

1000 WEST FRIENDLY AVENUE, GREENSBORO, 27401 | 336-274-3286 | [FBCGSO.ORG](https://fbcgso.org)



First Baptist Church
Greensboro