



"Good Samaritan" by Paulus Hoffman

THE WORLD AS IT COULD BE

SUMMER SERMONS ON THE PARABLES OF JESUS

First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina
gathers for
The Worship of God

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 18, 2024

"At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us this short but effective image so we will know that we are to act on his words and live the teachings, instead of only believing things about God: 'Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock.'

That's because Jesus was teaching an alternative wisdom that shakes the social order instead of upholding the conventional wisdom that maintains it. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is not about preserving the status quo! It's about living here on earth as if the Reign of God has already begun. In this Reign, the Sermon tells us, the poor are blessed, the hungry are filled, the grieving are filled with joy, and enemies are loved."

- Fr. Richard Rohr

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Reid Gilliam, organ

"Sing Praise to the Lord" by Robert Hobby

Lighting the Christ Candle Madilyn Hix

Opening the Bible Hunter McCracken

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix
From Psalm 18

The Lord is our rock

In whom we find refuge

The Lord is our salvation

Through whom we are safe

We call upon the Lord

For the Lord is worthy to be praised

The Lord lives, and blessed be our rock and salvation

For this we will praise you, O Lord, and sing your name.

†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. Chris Cherry

Time for Children Rev. Sherouse

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. Courtney Willis

Scripture Lesson Rev. Sherouse

Matthew 7:24-27

Sermon James Dolph *Pastoral Intern*

†Hymn of Response 539

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON

If you would like to become a member of this congregation,
you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.

Stewardship Prayer Margaret Crawford *deacon*

Choral Offertory Summer Choir

"Christians We Have Met to Worship" Arranged by Lloyd Larson

*Christians we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power as we seek the Loving Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Christians, pray, and God's great blessing will be showered all around.*

*Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for others till our God makes all things new.
When God calls us home to heaven, at the table we sit down;
There our loving Lord will serve us with great blessings all around.
O worship the King, all glorious above; and gratefully sing God's wonderful love.
Christians, we have met to worship and adore the Lord, our God!*

†Benediction James Dolph

†Postlude Reid Gilliam, organ

"Postlude-Cantiaue" by Theodore Dubois

TODAY'S PREACHER

Our preacher this morning is James Dolph, who has served with First Baptist Greensboro this summer as our Pastoral Intern focusing in Youth Ministry. James is a student at Wake Forest University Divinity School (MDiv) entering their second year this fall. During the school year, James serves as the UNC-G Campus Minister with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, while also working on Sundays as College Ministry Intern with First Baptist Greensboro. This combination of experiences and education is helping to prepare James for an anticipated career in collegiate ministry and chaplaincy. Originally from Nebraska, James has quickly made a home in North Carolina, and we're grateful First Baptist has been a part of that.



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Our sermons this summer focus on the parables of Jesus. The brilliant scholar of parables, Bernard Brandon Scott, has said that in the parables Jesus inspires his listeners to "reimagine the world." It can be so easy amidst injustice and suffering to become resigned to the state of the world-as-it-is. But Jesus always saw beyond this and envisioned the world-as-it-could-yet-be — what he called "the kingdom of God" or "the kingdom of heaven." He prayed that it would come "to earth as it is in heaven." He gave his whole life to making it so. And he inspired his followers to imagine this possibility by teaching them in the way most vivid, accessible and transformative: through parables.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

Sunday, August 25

Worship on Back to School Sunday will feature a blessing for all of our students, educators, and administrators. We will share our theme for the 2024-2025 school year, as well as a prayer for the new year.

During the weeks leading up to Back to School Sunday, we are hosting a School Supply Drive for the Teacher Supply Warehouse of Guilford Education Alliance. All are welcome to bring donations to the admin office until August 25, when all are invited to bring donations to the sanctuary!

WISH LIST



- Markers & Pens
- Pencils & Erasers
- Paper (Construction, Graph, Copy)
- Notebooks (Composition & Spiral)
- Scissors
- Tape & Glue
- Two-Pocket Folders
- Post-It Notes & Index Cards
- Binder Clips & Staples
- Arts & Crafts Supplies

...AND MORE!





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO

CONNECTIONS

August 18, 2024

FBCKIDS AT MPB CHILDREN'S MUSEUM | Wednesday, August 21 at 9 am - Noon

Join FBCKids at MPB Children's Museum downtown for the morning! The Miriam P. Brenner Children's Museum is designed for children of all ages to provide a place of interactive learning through play and experiential learning. Join us for a day of fun! Sign up at fbcgso.org/children or scan the QR code.



KIDS & YOUTH PARENT MEETING | Sunday, August 25 at 9:30 am

On Back to School Sunday, during the Sunday school hour, we will have a Parent Meeting. Amy and Chris will talk about fall plans for both children and youth along with revealing ministry area calendars. This is also a great time to meet other parents! We hope you make plans to join us.

TRAIL TUESDAYS | Tuesday, August 27 at 7 am

Our last Trail Tuesday of the summer will be at Laurel Bluff Trail (5966 Lake Brandt Rd, 27455). After traveling north on Lake Brandt, park on the right across from the lake, just before the pumping station. We will gather at 7 am - look for the purple "FBC loves you" sign. All are welcome!

SUMMER BOOKCLUB | Thursday, August 29 at 5:30 pm

Our last Summer Bookclub will be reading and discussing "Life after Doom" by Brian McLaren. If you have any questions or need help getting a copy of the book, please connect with Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org). Learn more at: fbcgso.org/summer-bookclub

MIDWEEK RETURNS | Wednesdays this Fall, starting September 11

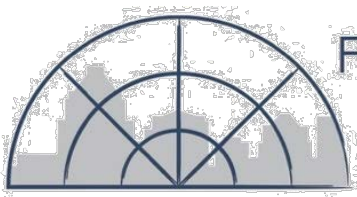
As we look toward the fall, plan to join us for Midweek on Wednesday evenings. Dinner is provided from 5:30-6:15, with programming for all ages to follow. We hope you'll plan to build this time of connection, community and fellowship into your fall plans!

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

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Greensboro