



“**Things I wish
I would have said...**”

about the Pandemic back in March
but I didn't know them yet



Our Worship of God

September 27, 2020

9:15 am

- Outdoor Service -

Prelude

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
He Leadeth Me**
Colleen Ostercamp, *keyboard*

by Cindy Berry

Welcome

Call to Worship (responsive)

O God, who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world,
enable us to be still and know that You are God.

O Lord, who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life,
**breathe in us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort, and guide us
in the midst of the storm.**

O still, small voice, speak to us this hour
**that we might become makers of Your peace
in our homes, in our communities, in our world.**

We pray all this in the name of the One who calmed the raging sea.
Amen.

†Opening Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center
Sung to BEACH SPRING

*Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.*

*Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.*

*In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!*

†Passing of the Peace

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Litany of Reflection

Over and over in the scriptures, we read stories of people who miraculously overcome great obstacles:

Boys who slay giants with stones,

Women who defeat armies with tent pegs,

Full jars of oil and grain despite famine,

Desperate fathers whose daughters rise from deathbeds,

Locked prison doors flying open,

Dangerous seas calmed at a word,

Crucified Christ resurrected.

From these stories, and many more

We take hope.

For in our deepest desperation,

You meet us.

In our poverty of spirit,

You meet us.

In our blindness and apathy,

You meet us.

Things don't always turn out the way we want them to in this life,

But your eye is always on the afflicted.

Come to us now, Holy One, in our desperation and need;

Still our storms;

Bring us all to a place of rest,

And make us glad in the quiet. Amen.

Practicing Stillness

Take a moment and sit in silence.

Hymn

When the Winds Rage All Around Us

When the winds rage all around us,

Shaking all that we hold dear,

When the flood of pain engulfs us,

When we feel the grip of fear:

We hope in you, O God.

We hope in you, we hope in you,

We hope in you, O God.

Not our goodness nor our knowledge,

Our achievements nor our art,

Can support us in the chaos

When our lives are ripped apart:

We hope in you, O God.

We hope in you, we hope in you,

We hope in you, O God.

When our faith itself is fragile,

You are faithful without fail,

Sending friends to bear your presence

While the storms of change assail:

We hope in you, O God.

We hope in you, we hope in you,

We hope in you, O God.

Sharing our Gifts

Special Music

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Mariah Dale, *mezzo-soprano*, Colleen Osterkamp, *piano*.

Message

Pastor Carol McEntyre

†Hymn of Response 678

In the Bulb

*In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

Life of the Church

†Benediction

Postlude (to say farewell to our tree)

Where the Tall Tree Grows

by David Lanz

Worship Notes

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Litany of Reflection, Fran Pratt.

When the Winds Rage All Around Us, ©1996 The Pilgrim Press. Words: Ruth C. Duck. Music: WE TRUST IN YOU by Lamont Lenox.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you wish to share this worship experience with a neighbor, the service is broadcast live, and the sermon is available on our website within a week.

Week at a Glance

Tuesday, September 29

- 12:00 pm *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* Video Series, Facebook & YouTube
- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

Wednesday, September 30

- 12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol
- 6:00 pm The Calling on the Lawn
- 6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

Thursday, October 1

- 12:00 pm *Everything Must Change* Online Book Study via Zoom

Sunday, October 4

- 9:15 am Worship Service on the Front Lawn with Guest Preacher Dr. Pam Durso
- 10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study and Small Groups
 - Online Zoom Churchwide Bible Study*
- 10:30 am Student Ministry Group online
- 11:15 am Online Worship Service with with Guest Preacher Dr. Pam Durso
 - Stream the worship service by clicking "Watch Us Live" from link at the top of our website*
- 2:00 pm Choir and Musician Gathering on the Lawn
- 4:00 pm Pre-K & Kindergarten First Kids Gathering
- 5:00 pm *Everything Must Change* Book Study on the Front Lawn

Announcements

Visitors and Prayer Requests

If you are visiting with us online, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, let us know you are with us today by texting “guest” to 573-326-9490. If you are in need of prayer, text “prayer” to 573-326-9490 and Brittany, our Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation will connect with you.

Choir and Musician Gathering on the Lawn

All choir members and musicians are invited to gather on the church lawn on Sunday, October 4th, at 2:00 pm for socially distanced (and masked) fellowship.

Wisdom for Pandemic Living Video Series

Tuesdays on Facebook and YouTube

We are excited to introduce a new video series called *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* which will premiere every Tuesday at noon during our worship series *Things I Wish I Would Have Said about the Pandemic Back in March but I Didn't Know Them Yet*. Living through a pandemic is hard. We haven't done this before, and we don't know how long it's going to go on. At First Baptist, we have a number of helping professionals in our congregation, and each Tuesday we will get the chance to learn a piece of wisdom from them. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel and like us on Facebook so you won't miss out on the *Wisdom for Pandemic Living* series.

Financial Assistance for Those Affected by COVID-19

If you have found yourself in need of financial assistance in this disruptive time of a global pandemic, please reach out to any of our pastors (by phone or email) to notify us of your need. Please know that all such requests are confidential. We will get through this together!

National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, an annual month-long campaign to raise awareness about suicide prevention, reduce stigma around the topic and encourage those in need to utilize available resources. It's a time to remember those affected by suicide, to raise awareness, and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most. If someone you know is thinking about suicide and needs emotional support or resources, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the United States. 1-800-273-TALK (8255) provides free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. You matter. Your life matters. We are better because you are here.

New Worship Series

Practicing Presence: An Invitation to Prayer

On October 11 we are beginning a worship series entitled *Practicing Presence: An Invitation to Prayer*. At its core, prayer is being in the presence of God. Through this series, we will be talking about and practicing different forms of prayer during online and outdoor worship. Prayer is a reminder to center ourselves in God's love and care. Prayer isn't withdrawing from the problems of the world. Instead, prayer equips us to face the challenges with power from on high.

Autumn Changes to Worship Times

Outdoor worship has been a gift, giving us a safe way to meet in-person. We want to continue gathering on the front lawn as long as possible but recognize that the weather is already beginning to cool off. To account for this, the Church Council has made the decision to move the Outdoor Worship Service to 11:15 am beginning Sunday, October 11. Hopefully, this will allow us to continue meeting for several more weeks. The Online Worship Service will be recorded and broadcasted at 9:15 am, but you can still watch at 11:15 am as usual.

First Kids Sunday Small Groups – Sundays in October

It has been a while since First Kids have gathered in-person to sing songs, learn about Jesus, and grow in God's love together. During October, First Kids will be kicking off *The Beatitudes* series in social-distanced style. Small gatherings will take place by age group in order to help maintain social distancing protocols and to best craft curriculum and experiences to each age groups' needs.

First Kids Small Groups will take place on the Front Lawn of the church on Sundays from 4:00-4:50 pm. Each Sunday, a *different* age group will meet. The schedule is as follows:

- **October 4 - Pre-K through Kindergarten**
- **October 11 - 1st and 2nd graders**
- **October 18 - 3rd through 5th graders**
- **October 25 - First Families Fall Party (all ages - details coming soon!)**

Children over two will be asked to wear a mask to the best of their ability while participating in First Kids events. If your child does not have a mask, one will be provided. Restrooms will be available, but we do encourage bathroom use before attending First Kids.

Prayer Guides and Boxes

As part of the *Practicing Presence* series, we are putting together a prayer box for each First Baptist family. The prayer box includes a booklet of prayers for personal use, a simple kit for making your own prayer beads, a finger labyrinth, and a candle. You may pick up your prayer box October 11 following in person worship or from 4:00-4:30 pm on October 11 by driving through the church parking lot.

Sanctuary Open for Prayer

Beginning October 12, the Sanctuary will be open for prayer and personal reflection on Mondays from 9 am-5 pm. One person or family at a time may sign up for a 30-minute time slot by contacting the church office at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org