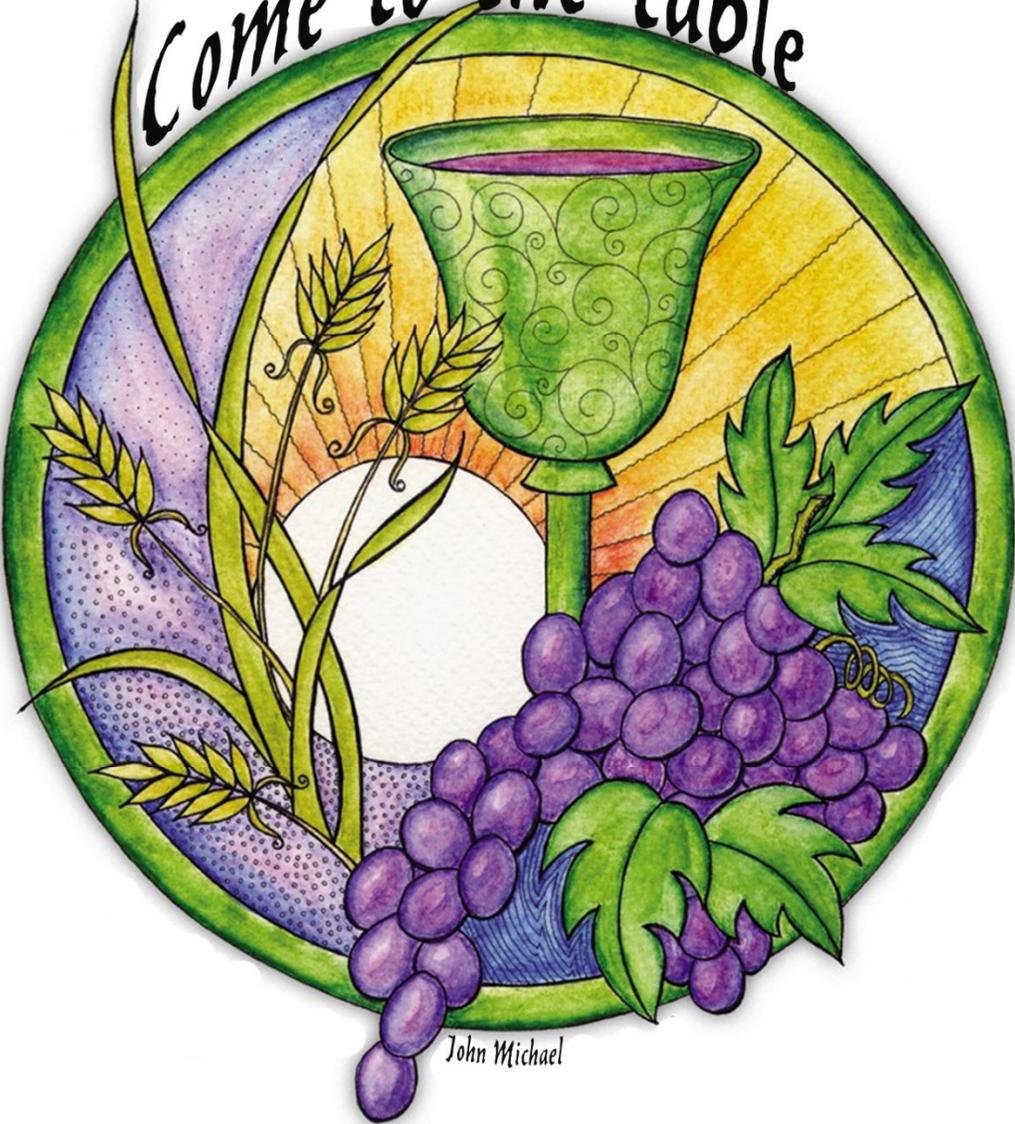


Come to the table



John Michael

Our Worship of God

September 1, 2019

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Greeting

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Prelude

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

arr. Burkhardt

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Hospitable God, you invite us to a banquet

where the last may be first,

and the humble and the mighty trade places.

Let us share your abundance with no fear of scarcity;

let us greet strangers as angels you have sent!

Send your Spirit now

so that we may find a place at your table

and welcome others with radical hospitality. Amen.

†Processional Hymn 130

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

†Hymn

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table



Look who ga - thers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries that they bring.
 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble, an - cient fol - low - ers ap - pear,
 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand dif - ferent ways,
 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to be sur - prised



Some are weep - ing, some are laugh - ing, some have songs they want to sing.
 saints con - fes - sing how they wres - tled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
 but they share one thing in com - mon: they all end in thanks and praise
 by the host whose hands are wounded, who will o - pen wide your eyes



Oth - ers ask why they're in - vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done.
 Pe - ter tells of his de - ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight,
 for the host who has in - vit - ed north and south and east and west
 when he bles - ses bread and breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—



Christ in - sists they all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.
 Paul re - lates his fruit - less ef - forts to o - blit - er - ate the light.
 to con - verge a - round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
 and then pas - ses wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

†Offertory Sentence

Offertory	Let Us Break Bread Together	Arr. Zabel
Message		Carol McEntyre
Song of Preparation	As We Gather at Your Table	Daw/Scott

*As we gather at your Table,
as we listen to your Word,
help us know, O God, your presence:
let our hearts and minds be stirred.*

*Nourish us with sacred story
'til we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.*

*Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.*

*Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.*

*Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.*

*There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy, the sounding joy.*

Observation of Holy Communion (responsive)

Words of Invitation: The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the God who welcomes us at this table.

Let us rejoice aloud to God.

We will offer glad words of thanksgiving to the One who delivers us.

We voice aloud our joy to you, Master of the Universe.

Out of the emptiness of chaos, you brought forth creation,
plentiful with all we need, graced with gifts beyond imagination.

Offered the place of honor in your good Garden,
we filled our souls with worthless lies,
moving out of glory's neighborhood into the junkyard of the world.

Prophets brought your word of judgment,
and your gracious invitation to come home,
but we would not listen to the advice they offered to us.

Then you sent Jesus, who humbled himself
that we might be exalted.

Therefore, we come to your table praising,
our voices joining with those in every time and in every place,
lifting our glad voices to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God our strength!

All creation shouts for you to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

We welcome the One who shows hospitality to strangers.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, Mothering God,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Life.

Glorified as your true child, he came to show hospitality

to all the strangers of the world.
Deserving of the seat of honor, he humbled himself to serve the guests.
Refusing to let us be left in the ruthless hands of sin and death,
he entered that prison we call the grace
to set us free to live with you.
As we remember his life and death,
as we come to the table of the resurrection,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Dying, you took the seat of dishonor;
Rising, you humbled yourself to be exalted;
Coming again, you will honor us in the presence of the One
who invites all to sit at the table of grace.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon the Bread and the Cup,
simple gifts from creation which grace us with your life,
and upon those who gather around your table.
Fed with the finest wheat, may we go forth to fill the lives
of all whose emptiness imprisons them.
Having tasted the cup of joy,
may we bring the sweet honey of hope to those parched by despair.

Welcomed without question at your table of grace,
may we open our hearts to throw a party for all
who have been forsaken by the world.
And when we gather around the wedding feast in glory,
with all the poor, the broken, the prisoners, the oppressed -
we will open our mouths to receive your joy,
and speak aloud to you our praise for all eternity:
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Words of Institution

The Broken Bread, The Shared Cup

†Benediction (responsive)

Having listened to God's words, we are sent to serve others.

Today and tomorrow, we will follow where God leads.

Having joined in songs of praise and hope, we will carry these gifts into the world.

Today and tomorrow, we will serve beside Jesus.

Having been filled with the Spirit of justice, we will go to be with all who struggle.

Today and tomorrow, we will bring justice and peace to those around us.

Worship Notes

*☞ The sanctuary flowers are given in honor of ☞
Sterling Wyatt.*

As We Gather at Your Table, ©1993 Augsburg Fortress. Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., Music: K. Lee Scott

Benediction written by Rev. Christopher Ney, and posted on the United Church of Christ's **Worship Ways** website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-15.html>

Prayer: <https://presbydestrian.wordpress.com/2013/09/01/come-to-the-feast-luke-141-7-14-september-1-2013-fpc-jesup/>

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Thank you for worshiping 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

Monday, September 2

Labor Day – Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 3

11:45 am – 2 pm Crafty Critters

Conference Room

6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Conference Room

Wednesday, September 4

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Sanctuary

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

Sunday, September 8

Invite-a-Friend Sunday

New Sermon Series Begins: *What is the Bible?*

Announcements

Welcome! We're Glad You're Here

We would love to help you connect with our church. To learn more about First Baptist, fill out an information card during worship and drop it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor after worship. You can also stop by the Connections table and pick up our newsletter, *The Spire*. Information about our Children's Ministry and some of our adult small groups can be found on the back of the bulletin.

Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

Our Children's Ministry needs volunteers to help with extended session during both worship services. You can sign-up to volunteer following the service or by contacting Brittany at bnull@fbc-columbia.org

Invite-a-Friend Sunday – September 8

We are declaring Sunday, September 8 Invite-a-Friend Sunday!

As a community of faith, we look forward to Sunday morning when we come to church, see our friends, attend small group and worship together. We love our church and believe other people would too if they came to visit. So, the Telling Team came up with the idea of Invite-a-Friend Sunday. We thought if we agreed together to invite a friend, it would encourage us to issue the invitation. You can invite a co-worker, a neighbor, a family member, or a friend. Sunday, September 8 is the start of a new sermon series about the Bible- what it is and how it speaks today. It is going to be a great time of learning, so why not invite others to join us?

New to the Pew Blessing – September 8

With the beginning of the new school year, we are excited to welcome our newest worshippers to the pews. On Sunday morning, September 8, in conjunction with our Sermon Series, *What is the Bible?*, we will be presenting Bibles to our first graders and offering a blessing over them and their families. We want to celebrate this milestone and commit to walking alongside them on their journey.

What is the Bible? Sermon Series - Sept. 8 - Oct. 13

During this sermon series, we are going to take a deep theological dive into the Bible. We will talk about what it is, how this ancient book speaks today, the parts of the Bible that trouble us, and what we do with it.

Summer Book Club Discussion Groups

If you have been reading our summer book club selections about the Bible, we wanted to let you know when the discussions will take place. The groups will meet during the Small Group Hour at 10:15 am in the Conference Room on the second floor. We look forward to the conversation!

Inspired by Rachel Held Evans
September 8 & 15
10:15 am, Conference Room
led by Kim Siegenthaler

The Bible Tells Me So by Peter Enns
October 6 & 13
10:15 am, Conference Room
led by Brian Ford

What is the Bible? by Rob Bell
September 22 & 29
10:15 am, Conference Room
led by Noah Hartsfield

Sheppard Lecture Series – October 19 & 20

Join us on October 19 & 20 for our annual Sheppard Lecture with Jared Byas, co-host of the popular podcast, *The Bible for Normal People*.

Child Development Center Supply Drive

One way to show your love for the CDC this fall is to participate in our classroom supply drive. On Sunday morning you can stop by the bulletin board in the hallway by the Sanctuary to see a list of classroom supplies our teachers are requesting for the school year. Each supply will be on a slip of paper, simply take a slip of paper or two, purchase those supplies, and drop the supplies and the slip of paper off on the 2nd floor of the Church next to the CDC office.



For Children During Worship:

Birth-Kindergarteners can be checked in at the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

1st- 5th Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 Childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, which is located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 years old through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups are located on the second floor:

-Discussion Class (in the Parlor) likes to take a deep dive into scripture.

-Faith Forum (Elevator Lobby Classroom) is a diverse group that likes to read the lesson for the day together, share information, and ask questions to learn from one another.

-Connections Group (office commons) is made up of younger adults. They spend time building community, sharing life, and often take on heady theological topics.

*The all-gender restroom is located in the Child Development Center Hallway outside the Sanctuary.

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor

Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, Missions, and Interim Administration

Brittany McDonald Null, Interim Assistant Pastor

Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director, Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist

Marques J. Ruff, Interim Music Director-Traditional Worship

Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant, Bethany James, Nursery Director

Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator, Michael Ide, Custodian