



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ATHENS

February 2, 2025

11:00 a.m.

The Worship of God

*Guests, we welcome you to worship and we're glad you are here with us.
We sing hymns from the hymnbook, Celebrating Grace, in the pew rack.
Texts in the bulletin in **bold** are said or sung by the congregation.
The asterisk (*) is an invitation for you to rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Charles Callahan

Opening Prayer

Matt Marston

Lord of all creation,
tune the instruments of our lives and choreograph the dance of our church
so that, through word and deed,
your people may persistently proclaim your glory, majesty, love, and goodness,
until everything that breathes sings "Hallelujah!"
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

* Hymn 319

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

Please rise in body and/or spirit to sing.

Stanza 1 — all

Stanza 2 — higher voices (primarily women and children)

Stanza 3 — lower voices (primarily men)

Stanza 4 — all

Please remain standing for the Call to Worship.

* Call to Worship

Psalm 150

* Hymn 310

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Emily Glass

Children's Moment

Janet Cleland

Following the Children's Moment, children (pre-K through grade 2) are invited to Children's Worship in Room 121.

Gospel

Luke 6:1-11

Frank Granger

Hymn

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

Please remain seated and sing the refrain.

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth. *Refrain*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain*

They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *Refrain*

Gospel

Luke 6:12-16

Emily Glass

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

When to Break the Rules

Matt Marston

Responding to God's Word

Invitation

Hymn

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

REPTON

Please remain seated as the choir sings Stanzas 1-2.

Please rise in body and/or spirit to sing Stanzas 3-5.



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored: the Christ in all the Scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark-ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - ery child of earth, for ev - ery child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

* Affirmation of Faith

Matt Marston

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Anthem

He Comes to Us

Jane Marshall

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old,
by the lakeside He came to those who knew Him not.
He speaks to us, He speaks the same word:
“Follow! Follow! Follow thou me!”
and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.
He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple,
He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts,
the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship,
and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
Thou beamest forth in truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly.
Thou Root of Jesse, David’s Son,
my Lord and Master, Thou hast won
my heart to serve Thee solely!

Thou art holy,
fair and glorious,
all victorious,
rich in blessing,
rule and might
o’er all possessing.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Howard Germany

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

* Hymn 72

Day by Day

BLOTT EN DAG

* Stewardship Prayer Will Divers, Deacon

Offertory *He Comes to Us as One Unknown* Michael Burkhardt

* Doxology OLD 100TH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Benediction

Musical Leadership

Musical leadership includes Eleazar Louis, oboe; Sam Lumpkin & Jack Bunnell, trumpet; Owen Gertsch & Matthew Baxley, trombone; Martha Thomas, piano; and Sanctuary Choir.

Worship Notes

We are following the Gospel of Luke for our scripture through Easter. Several of these readings correlate to Jesus' calling disciples—and, by extension, us.

The anthem *He Comes to Us* and the hymn *He Comes to Us as One Unknown* come from the closing pages of Albert Schweitzer's *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (London 1919) which says of Christ: "He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those first men who knew him not."

An online article about the hymn (Hope Publishing) adds more information: "Taking as its theme our perception of God's approach to the soul, and the 'sense of the divine' which is part of human experience, the first two verses were written at a sitting. The third is a reference to Revelation 1.15 and to 1 Kings 19; with the merest allusion to 1 Chronicles 14.15, when a 'sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees' is a sign or signal from the Lord himself; the NEB translation is a 'rustling sound in the treetops'. By verse 4 the text is explicitly Christian in its reference both to incarnation and to atonement; and by verse 5 there is the personal response of faith to the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament (cf. Luke 24.27; 1 Peter 1.8)."

Schweitzer (1875–65) was a theologian, organist, musicologist, writer, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician/missionary. Because of his connection to Bach scholarship, Jane Marshall ended her setting of his text with a Bach choral.

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Lord of the Dance (I Danced in the Morning), Sydney Carter. ©1963 Stainer & Bell Ltd.

He Comes to Us, Jane Marshall. ©1957 Carl Fischer, LLC

He Comes to Us as One Unknown, Timothy Dudley-Smith. ©1973 Hope Publishing Company

He Comes to Us as One Unknown, Michael Burkhardt. ©1995 MorningStar Music/Birnamwood Publ.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 2

9:00 a.m..... Church Council — 3rd Floor Conf. Rm.
9:00 a.m..... Children’s Ministry Team — Farrall Conf. Rm.
9:30 a.m..... The First Cup Café — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
9:45 a.m..... Sunday School for all ages — throughout the building
10:15 a.m. Women’s Devotion — Rm. 323
10:15 a.m. *Reexamine the Examen* — Farrall Conf. Rm.
11:00 a.m. Worship— Sanctuary and Livestream
2:00 p.m. Heart Youth Symphony — Rotunda
4:30 p.m. Youth Choir and Activities— Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. Children’s Choirs — First Floor
5:15 p.m. Mission Kids — First Floor

Monday, February 3

10:00 a.m. Athens Stitch-In Group — Rm 324
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting — Farrall Conf. Rm.

Tuesday, February 4

12:00 noon..... Bible Study— 3rd Floor Gathering Area

Wednesday, February 5

5:00 p.m. Property Management — Farrall Conf. Rm.
5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper — Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. College Group — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
6:30 p.m. Adult Discipleship — Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Thursday, February 6

10:00 a.m. Seekers Team — Farrall Conf. Rm.
6:00 p.m. Young Adults —various locations

Sunday, February 9

9:30 a.m..... The First Cup Café — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
9:45 a.m..... Sunday School for all ages — throughout the building
10:15 a.m. Women’s Devotion — Rm. 323
10:15 a.m. *Reexamine the Examen* — Farrall Conf. Rm.
11:00 a.m. Worship w/Baptism and Baby Dedication— Sanctuary and Livestream
2:00 p.m. Heart Youth Symphony — Rotunda
4:30 p.m. Youth Choir and Activities— Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. Children’s Choirs — First Floor
5:15 p.m. Mission Kids — First Floor

The Sunday Messenger

Community Notes

Wednesday Night Suppers are served at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and cost \$10/person (free to college students). Make reservations/changes by noon on Mondays on Realm or call the church office. This week's menu is Peking Mongolian Beef/Cashew Chicken, white/fried rice, egg rolls and dessert.

Join Matt Marston for *I Love to Tell the Story* Tuesdays (noon) and Wednesdays (6:30 p.m.) Matt will guide members of the congregation as they tell the story of their faith journey.

Janet Cleland will lead *Reimagining the Examen*, a 4-week series for adults on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. beginning February 2. Learn how to tailor your daily prayer practice in 10 minutes a day.

The Seekers (50+ Adults) trip to Colonial Williamsburg and Washington, D.C. in March has been cancelled. If you paid a deposit, a refund has been initiated.

Registration is now open for PassportKids! Camp at Rock Eagle July 13-16, 2025. Total cost of the camp is \$325 with a \$50 deposit due by February 1. Sign up on Realm!

FBC Young Adults (20s & 30s) are reading about spiritual practices and discussing on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m. at different host homes each week. Contact Emily Glass (emily@firstbaptistathens.org) for details.

Women's Devotion & Prayer Group meets on Sunday mornings at 10:15 in room 323. Ladies who don't have a Sunday school class, this is for you!

College students are invited to join a discussion about the book of Revelation led by Ray Austin on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Gathering Area.

Our Church on Mission

Food Bank needs:

Cleaning products, paper goods, personal hygiene items

Bring donations to the mission room.

Tickets for Family Promise's Annual Fundraiser, La Table, February 25 are now on sale! FBC partners with Family Promise to serve families experiencing the crisis of homelessness. Purchase tickets at (www.familypromiseathens.org/events) and remember to select First Baptist Athens as a host table.

Current Prayer Requests

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Rod Hernandez and his family in the death of his father, Rod Hernandez of Charlotte on

January 26.

Russ Graves

Wayne Hogan

Lorene Horton

Marc Melton

Ministers

Matt Marston	<i>Senior Minister</i>
Frank Granger	<i>Minister of Christian Community</i>
Janet Cleland	<i>Minister of Children, Families, and Outreach</i>
Emily Glass	<i>Minister to Students and Young Adults</i>
Tom Granum	<i>Interim Director of Music Ministries</i>
Trip Drennan	<i>Choral Scholar</i>
Sydney Godfrey	<i>Choral Scholar</i>
De’Nasia Thomas	<i>Choral Scholar</i>
Nathan Vazquez	<i>Choral Scholar</i>
Lili Haynes	<i>Children’s Ministry Intern</i>
Addison Aycock	<i>Youth Ministry Intern</i>

First Baptist Church offers **ONLINE GIVING** which can be found on our church website, by using this QR Code.



Want to learn more about FBC? Follow this QR code for FAQs and a way to connect.



To Love To Serve To Explore For You

First Baptist Church

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