



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ATHENS

November 23, 2025 11:00 a.m.
Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday
Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Gathering in the Name of the Sovereign Christ

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Jack Jones

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-7

Matt Marston

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.
The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
Come, let us worship God.

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Emily Glass

O God Most High! Everlasting Lord, mighty and lifted up!
Grant to us your Holy Spirit, that in these words of Holy Scripture
our hearts might be lifted up and our minds set on heavenly realities,
that contemplating the reign of our ascended Lord
we might long to be with him and enter into the joy of his eternal kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 (first floor).*

Psalm

Psalm 137

Prayer in Response to the Psalm

Hymn

By the Babylonian Rivers

KAS DZIEDAJA

Please remain seated to sing.



1 By the Bab - y - lo - nian riv - ers we sat
2 There our cap - tors in de - ri - sion did re -
3 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a
down in grief and wept, hung our harps up - on the
quire of us a song; so we sat with star - ing
strange and bit - ter land; can our voic - es veil the
wil - low, mourned for Zi - on when we slept.
vi - sion, and the days were hard and long.
sor - row? Lord God, hold your ho - ly band.

Scripture

Daniel 3:1, 8-30
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Secret Agent Men

Matt Marston

Responding to God's Word

Invitation

Invitation to Join

Invitation to Pledge

Invitation to Request Prayer with a Minister

Invitation Music

The congregation is invited to sing during this time of invitation.

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final half note. The lyrics are written below the staff.

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic-es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic-es; the Lord is near.

The musical notation is in 3/4 time, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Unison

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One. Give

thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son. Give

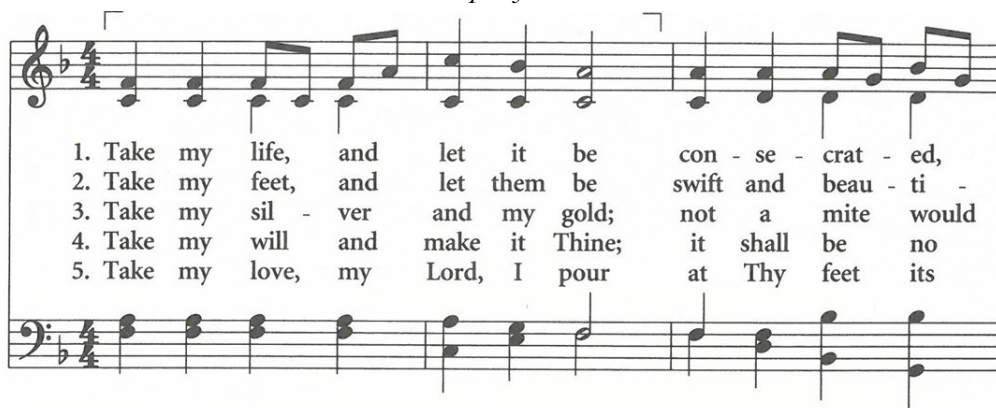
Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong";

let the poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has

done for us. And us. Give thanks!

Take My Life

HENDON



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 3. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
 4. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no
 5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its



Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move
 ful for Thee; take my voice, and let me sing
 I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days,
 long - er mine; take my heart, it is Thine own,
 trea - sure store. Take my - self and I will be



at the im-pulse of Thy love, at the im - pulse of Thy love.
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 let them flow in cease-less praise, let them flow in cease-less praise.
 it shall be Thy roy - al throne, it shall be Thy roy - al throne.
 ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Bob Cain

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem

Now Thank We All Our God

Michael Rosewall

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!

Youth Choir and Elinor Ellis, piano

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Great God of our lives,
for all that is gracious in our lives,
revealing the image of Christ,
we give you thanks.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
we give you thanks.

For minds to think and hearts to love and hands to serve,
we give you thanks.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
we give you thanks.

For all valiant seekers after ruth, liberty, and justice,
we give you thanks.

For the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
to you, O God, be praise and glory. **Amen.**

Giving Thanks to God through Song

Please rise in body and/or spirit to give thanks to God.

* **Hymn 356 (Stanzas 1 & 3)** *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer*

* **Hymn 372 (Stanza 1)** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

* **Hymn 371 (Stanza 1)** *Now Thank We All Our God*

* **Stewardship Prayer**

Bill McDonald, Deacon

Offertory

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given;
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

* **Doxology**

**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**

Advent/Christmas Calendar

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. — Communion Worship
Receiving food for the Food Bank

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. — Sanctuary Choir, Treble Youth Choir, soloists
and chamber orchestra present *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi
12:00 noon — Christmas Luncheon for the Congregation

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.—Worship and honoring Janet Cleland
Special music presented by the Children's Choirs

Tuesday, December 16

5:30 p.m. — Blue Christmas: *A Service of Remembrance and Hope*

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 a.m. — Christmas Breakfast
11:00 a.m. — Worship

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. — Candlelight Communion Worship

Sunday, December 28

First Sunday after Christmas

No Sunday School
11:00 a.m. — Worship with Carol Sing-Along

Community Events at FBC

Community events in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 14

4:00 p.m. — Athens Master Chorale Christmas concert (free admission)
The Gloria that Got Away: Vivaldi and Handel (the “other Vivaldi Gloria)

Wednesday, December 17

10:00 a.m. — Downtown Academy Sing-Along

Monday, December 22

7:00 p.m.— *Christmas with Kinnara* (free admission)
Georgia's premier professional chamber choir

Stewardship at First Baptist Church

First Baptist is a generous church, with high participation in giving to our ministries. Each fall, we invite members and friends to make pledges toward next year's budget. Pledges are realistic plans for what will be given next year.

Pledges do two things.

- 1) They help church leadership make plans for the future.
- 2) They help you stay on track with your giving. Your pledge will be entered into your Realm account so you can see your progress toward your pledge. You will also receive reminders.

Please remember your pledge is confidential. No one but our administrative associate, Cheri Rose, has access to this information.

This year, we've also created an option to simply pledge giving something in 2026. Most of us have grown into generosity. A suggested path is to commit to giving something first, then something regularly, then something more, and then perhaps a percentage of income.

Commitment cards are available in the Narthex and the Branyon Foyer. They may be returned to the church office anytime, but you're invited to bring them forward today in worship.

Thank you for your faithfulness in year's past and your consideration for 2026!

Matt Marston

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In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful, Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community. ©1986, 1991 Taizé, Les Presses de (North America)

Give Thanks, Henry Smith. ©1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Now Thank We All Our God, Michael Rosewall. ©2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers

For the Beauty of the Earth, John Rutter. ©1980 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sundays

9:30 a.m. First Cup Café — 3rd Floor Gathering Area
9:45 a.m.....Sunday School for all ages — throughout the building
11:00 a.m. Worship — Sanctuary and Livestream
4:30 p.m. Children's Choirs — First Floor
5:15 p.m. Mission Kids — First Floor

Monday

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting — Farrall Conference Room

Events This Week (in addition to Weekly Schedule)

Today, November 23

12:00 p.m. Youth Choir, Lunch, and Movie

Tuesday, November 25

There will be no Bible Study

Thursday, November 27

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Current Prayer Requests

Kathy Barrow
Russell Cartwright
Mike Cleland
Dennis Leach
Gayle Noblet

Our Church on Mission

Salvation Army Bell Ringing will be
December 1-6 at Hobby Lobby. Please see
Phyllis Nelson to volunteer.

Final exam week is fast approaching!
Help us fill 25 care bags for our college
students. Collection bags will be lined up
in the room outside Matt's office
through November 26.

Snack mixes, chips, candy, and coffee shop
gift cards are welcomed items.

Emily and the College Ministry Team
will distribute the bags to students
after Thanksgiving break.



*The flowers in the sanctuary are given
in loving memory of Jim and Joyce Gravely
by Mike and Susan Gravely.*



The Sunday Messenger

Community Notes

The Wednesday Night Supper series with Adult Discipleship will not be meeting this week. Dinners will resume December 3rd.

We are collecting a love offering in honor of Janet Cleland. Donations can be made online through the church website, or in cash or check and brought to Cheri Rose.

We encourage you to bring one or more items of food for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank on November 30 as we celebrate communion. In the early church, they would take food to those in need after sharing “the meal” in worship. All food items are appreciated; the Food Bank is especially in need of four items:

- Canned soup
- Hamburger Helper
- Cold cereal
- Pork & beans

The Sanctuary Choir, Youth Trebles, soloists, and chamber orchestra will lead us in worship Sunday, December 7, with *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi. Our December 7 service is a great opportunity to invite friends and family to join you in worship.

The Seekers will have a chili lunch on Monday, December 15, 11:30 a.m., Rotunda. You do not need to sign up for this lunch.

The Seekers will take a trip to Jekyll Island and St. Simons March 23-25. This trip is open to friends and family. Please consider making your \$200 deposit in Realm now to ensure the trip has enough participants. Email Anna-Maria Goumas (anna-maria@firstbaptistathens.org) for a copy of the trip itinerary.

College Students and Recent Graduates meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 in Room 316.

Those in need of a hearing-assistance device may get one from an usher.

Nursing mothers: A private area is provided for you in the outer room of the women’s restroom below the sanctuary with a rocker and a counter for changing diapers.

Ministers

Matt Marston
Janet Cleland
Emily Glass
Tom Granum
Martha Thomas

Senior Minister
Minister of Children, Families, and Outreach
Associate Minister
Director of Music Ministries
Pianist

Austin Carter
Trip Drennan
Sydney Becher-Godfrey
De’Nasia Thomas
Nathan Vazquez
Karlie Horton

Choral Scholar
Choral Scholar
Choral Scholar
Choral Scholar
Choral Scholar
Children’s Ministry Intern

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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