



*Ethiopian Orthodox Choir.* Ethiopian painting on stretched leather.

We welcome all guests worshiping with us today. Today is Ascension Sunday. Beginning with Easter Sunday, the season of Eastertide celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most joyous of the liturgical year. Also known as the Great Fifty Days, this period commemorates Jesus' forty days on earth, His Ascension into Heaven, and concludes with Pentecost and the beginning of Ordinary Time. The color white symbolizes the light and promise of eternal life through our Lord and Savior.

Worship care for preschool children and infants is offered during this hour in the children's building. Large print hymns and T-coil access are available at the back of the Sanctuary. An usher can assist you with these and any other needs you may have.

## GATHERING

PRELUDE *Prelude on Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams

GREETING Amy Stertz

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the God who has raised Jesus from the dead,  
**and seated him with power in the heavenly places.**

Come, let us worship the risen Christ,  
**who is above every name that is named, and the head over all things for  
the church.**

Come, let us worship in Spirit and truth,  
**the Lord Jesus whose immeasurable greatness fills all in all.**

\*HYMN 306 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* MADRID

SERVICE OF BAPTISM Brennan Callahan

\*SHARING PEACE The peace of Christ be with you. Casey Callahan  
**And also with you.**

\*HYMN 158 *Jesus Shall Reign Where E'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

## PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Paula Garrett

PSALM LESSON Psalm 146

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared,  
the great sovereign over all the earth,**

who subdues the peoples under us  
and the nations under our feet;

**who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our sovereign, sing praises.**

For God is sovereign of all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations  
and sits upon the holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
who is highly exalted.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father*

GREATOREX

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly  
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev - er  
shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Acts 1:1-11*

Mark Green

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“A Grand Pause”

Mack Dennis

## RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kendra Plating

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

*How Can I Keep from Singing*  
Sharyn Edwards, piano

Gwyneth Walker

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it's living!  
What though the darkness round me close, song in the night it's giving!  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since I believe that love abides, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble when they hear the bells of freedom ringing.  
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell, in dungeon dark, our thoughts to them are winging.  
When friends hold courage in their heart, how can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since I believe that love abides, how can I keep from singing?

\*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD 100TH

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

\*HYMN 215

*Rejoice the Lord is King*

TARWALL

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Write Your Blessed Name*

K. Lee Scott

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart,  
there to remain so indelibly engraved,  
that no prosperity, no adversity shall ever move me from your love.  
Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation,  
a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble  
and a guide to heaven through the many temptations  
and dangers of this life. Amen.

~ Thomas à Kempis

\*BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

\*POSTLUDE

*Festal Flourish*

Gordon Jacob

\*Those who are able please stand.

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Worship leaders include guest organist Sam Carabetta, Lay Reader Mark Green, Deacon of the Week Leesa Brandon, pianist Sharyn Edwards, and the Adult Choir.

This morning's art is *Ethiopian Orthodox Choir*. Ethiopian Orthodox choir paintings are traditional handcrafted religious artworks painted on stretched leather featuring stylized figures and vibrant colors. Photographed by Jahsensie. Artist unknown.

"How Can I Keep from Singing" by Robert W. Lowry arr. Gwyneth Walker, © 1995 ECSPublishing, "Write Your Blessed Name" by K. Lee Scott, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. CCL License #22592236; CCLI Streaming License #22592229

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Dr. Casey Callahan

Coordinating Pastor

Dr. Mack Dennis

Senior Pastor

Dr. Paula Garrett

Pastoral Resident

Rev. Doug Haney

Interim Minister of Music and Worship

Dr. Kendra Plating

Interim Pastor of Congregational Care

Rev. Amy Stertz

Pastor of Christian Formation and Children



## THIS WEEK

### **New Members Breakfast**

Today at 9:00 a.m.

### **A Time of Prayer**

Today at 9:15 a.m.

### **Bible Study**

Today at 9:45 a.m.

### **Caswell Pre-Trip Meeting**

Today at Noon

### **Ron's Rainbow Fellowship Potluck**

Today at Noon

### **FirstShine Training**

Today at 12:30 p.m.

### **AFTA Spring Recitals**

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

### **Thursday Community Ministry**

Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

### **Youth Depart for Caswell Retreat**

Friday at 1:00 p.m.

# WELCOME

May 17, 2026

If you are a guest with us today, greetings! We joyfully proclaim the sacred worth of all people and welcome you with glad hearts. Please complete the "Connect with Us" card from your pew, and place it in the plate during the Offertory. We would love to connect with you.

## MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

AgapeKids provides a welcoming space for kids children ages 3 through 6th grade to explore scripture, wonder about God, build friendships, and practice living out their faith. Join us this Wednesday as we celebrate a wonderful year of learning, growth, and community at our end-of-year celebration.

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

Leesa Brandon

## PASTORS ON CALL

Amy Stertz (18th-21st)  
Paula Garrett (22nd-25th)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

Meal: 5:00 p.m.  
Junior Choir: 5:40 p.m.  
Agape Kids lead  
Chapel Study: 6:00 p.m.  
Youth Koinonia: 6:00 p.m.  
Adult Choir: 7:00 p.m.

### Menu

Baked Ziti, Veggie  
Baked Ziti, Zucchini  
Pie, Seasoned Green  
Beans, Garlic Bread, &  
Chocolate Cake  
Kids-Pizza  
*(\$5/adult, \$3/child,  
\$20/family max)*



TO  
GIVE  
ONLINE

FBCA.NET  
828.252.4781  
5 OAK STREET  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801



*50 and 75 Year Members*

### **Academy for the Arts: Spring Recitals**

May 18, 19, & 21 \* 6:00 p.m. \* Sanctuary/Chapel/Crocker Auditorium

The Academy for the Arts will be hosting their spring recitals on May 18th, 19th, and 21st in the Sanctuary, Chapel, and Crocker Auditorium at First Baptist. All recitals will begin at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

### **Helene Hospitality Ministry**

#### **Summer Sign Up**

As our community continues the long and slow process of post-Helene recovery, FBCA seeks to be a source of healing and hope, working collaboratively with friends from near and far. This summer, we will host four overnight volunteer church groups at the church as they serve in Helene recovery efforts across our community. We are currently looking for coordinating hosts and meal sponsors to help us provide hospitality this summer to Helene Teams. Questions please contact Kristen Kirby in the church directory.

MEALS



HOSTS



- June 1-5: FBC Aiken, SC (7 adults)
- June 6-11: Central Baptist Newnan (20 youth/adults)
- July 19-24: FBC Wilmington (25-30 youth/adults)
- July 26-31: Calvary Lexington (15 youth/adults)