First Baptist Church at Worship

July 26, 2020 Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

The Holy God meets us in worship to search our hearts and to strengthen our spirits. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Be sure of this: nothing can separate us from the love of God – not death or life, not angels or rulers, not things present or things to come;

no earthly power can take away God's abiding love for us. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him

HYFRYDOL

Paul Sims

ODE TO JOY

God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice; Let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heavens above, God who breathes thro' all creation: God is Love, eternal Love. God is Love; and love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace; With unfailing grasp God holds us, every child of every race. And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod, Then we find that self-same aching deep within the heart of God. God is Love; and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life, God's eternal loving-kindness guides us through our earthly strife. Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain; God is Love, so Love forever o'er the universe must reign.

- Timothy Rees

Prayer of Confession

Response

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ, our Brother – all who live in love are Thine; Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

- Henry van Dyke

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

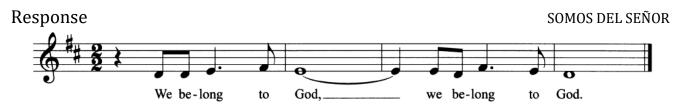
Alex Lockridge

from Genesis 29

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Paul Sims

from Romans 8



When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God. REFRAIN
Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God. REFRAIN
'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
Whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God. REFRAIN
- Roberto Escamilla



Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

The Lord's Prayer

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

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest: Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

- Fanny J. Crosby

Benediction

Alex Lockridge

Gayle Majors, Organist

Carolyn Garr, soloist Edward Garr, percussionist

The words to "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" are included in *An African Prayer Book* by Desmond Tutu, who was the Anglican archbishop of Cape Town and Johannesburg in South Africa. Known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. Scottish minister and musician, John Bell, set the text to music. It was first sung when Archbishop Tutu visited Scotland in 1995.

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