First Baptist Church at Worship

June 25, 2023 Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

A Summer in Rome

Gathering

Choral Prelude Grace
Sanctuary Choir

arr. by Mark Hayes

Greeting and Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks and Hannah Reeder

Jesus said: Take up your cross and follow me.

We have been crucified with Christ;

Now, by God's grace, we walk in newness of life.

Seek your life on earth and you will lose it;

But lose your life in Christ and you will find it.

If we have died with Christ,

We believe that we will also live him.

+Hymn 87

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

+Prayer of the day

Hannah Reeder

Holy and gracious God, your steadfast love abides with your people in every age. You teach us to trust in you and call us to live in peace with one another. Show us the way to live grateful lives, without fear, knowing the true worth of your creation, including ourselves; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+The Peace Alex Lockridge

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Response HYFRYDOL

I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me: How He left His home in glory for the cross of Calvary. I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray, Threw His loving arms around me, drew me back into His way. (Continued on page 2) I was bruised, but Jesus healed me; faint was I from many a fall; Sight was gone, and fears possessed me, but He freed me from them all. Days of darkness still come o'er me, sorrow's paths I often tread, But the Savior still is with me; by His hand I'm safely led.

- Francis H. Rowley

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Jeremiah Banks

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

-Romans 6:1b-11

A Moment for Children

+Hymn 587 Amazing Grace NEW BRITAIN

A Reading from the Gospels

John Blevins

Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon "The Sin/Grace Paradox" Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 491 Wherever He Leads I'll Go

FALLS CREEK

If you desire to become a follower of Christ or if you wish to present yourself for membership today, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Ruth Bradley

Offertory

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

arr. by Bozard

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Remembering Our Past

Teresa Lawson

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.

+Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

Sending

+Hymn 497

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

ASSAM

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

Go now and walk in newness of life for Christ was raised from the dead.

What God speaks to you in the dark, proclaim boldly in the light.

Take up your cross and follow Christ.

And may God watch over you and provide for you;
May Christ Jesus openly declare you to be his own;
And may the Holy Spirit bring you help and comfort always. Amen.

Organ Postlude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. by John Innes

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above. leading in worship today

Rev. Jeremiah Banks Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

John Blevins reader

Ruth Bradley Deacon

Carolyn Garr Interim Music Director

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura Accompanist

> Teresa Lawson Deacon

Rev. Alex Lockridge Senior Pastor

Hannah Reeder Student.Church Intern

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The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of our parents
Felix & Mattie Pace and D.B. & Lucille Lemons

by

Malcolm and Sharon Pace

Today's organ music is from a library of more than 1,000 digitized hymns, anthems, and solo-organ music that Gayle Majors recorded over the last several years. We are thankful for Gayle's life, for her 36-year tenure as Organist for First Baptist Church, and for this fine legacy that she has left for us.

*supplemental organ music by William P. Young, III