



First Baptist Church

JEFFERSON CITY TENNESSEE



THE WORSHIP OF GOD Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

10:45am

Centering Words

Open the eyes of our hearts, O God.
Help us see more clearly, think more openly,
feel more deeply, and love more abundantly.**

Welcome/Opportunities for Service/Invocation

Chad Hartsock

Prelude

O Worship the King

arr. Keveren

Call to Worship

Nenette Measels

In the still softness of the beginning,
the Creator breathed life into the slumbering, dusty Earth.

**We were made children of that holy dust,
nurtured by the fruit of the Holy Ground.**

To us was given the tilling and the tending—
a sacred trust to keep the Garden well.

We are the caretakers of the Holy Earth that sustains us.

Yet we have drifted. Other voices distracted us.

We walked out of the lush greenness of the Garden
to the parched, dry lands of apathy,
away from our sacred duties—

losing the thread that binds us to the holy soil and to
our neighbor.

**Let us give thanks for the hands that harvest—
in the shade of our neighbor's backyard
and in distant, sun-soaked fields.
May we work together to care for the Garden and
its inhabitants.**

Christ, our True Vine, calls us back to join Him at the Great Table of Love. He fills our cups to overflowing with the fruit of the vine.
**May we remember the miracle in the seed,
the sacred calling of the tilling, the life within the harvest,
and the love in the sharing of the bread with one another.**

Come, let us walk softly with the Gardener of our souls:
The Father who created us, the Son who walks with us,
and the Spirit who nourishes us.

**For we are all one mystical body in the Tending Heart of
God.*****

***Hymn of Praise and Sustainment 52**

O Worship the King

LYONS

Scripture Reading

Psalm 32

Donna Dobyns

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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

***Hymn of Testimony 586**

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

MOODY

Offertory Prayer

Pam Hester

Offertory

A Garden Prayer

Rowland-Raybold

***Response of Thanksgiving**

Doxology

OLD 100TH/Laney

We follow You from morn to night,

Your easy yoke, Your burden light.

The way is hard and joyful too.

You take our hand, You see us through! Amen.****

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Joe Dobyms

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Musical Offering*Roll Down, Justice!*

Miller

Worship Ensemble

There's a voice, strong and clear,
 ringing out far and near,
 "Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!"

Like the rush of a stream,
 comes a powerful dream,

Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Let the earth be restored, every soul be reformed;
 let the healing renew, creation reborn.

Here in this sacred space
 with the strength of God's grace,
 Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Chorus

Roll down! Roll down, justice!
 Roll, like an ever-flowing stream,
 roll down!

Let your heart soar, open the doors wide,
 let your mind be transformed,
 let it be opened by love.

On this glorious day give us courage, we pray,
 that justice rolls down, let justice roll down.

Let the vision take flight and God's will delight
 as the waters flow down, justice abounds! [Chorus]

Congregation joins Ensemble (see insert)

Roll down! Roll down, justice!
 Roll, like an ever-flowing stream,
 oh, roll down! Oh, roll down, justice!
 Roll, like an ever-flowing stream, flowing stream,
 roll down! Roll down! Roll down!

Sermon*The Light of Lent: Eating Death*

Major Treadway

Silent Confession**Assurance of Pardon****Pastoral Prayer**

Chad Hartsock

Hymn of Departing 521Go with Us, Lord*

TALLIS' CANON

***Benediction**

Major Treadway

*If you can do so, please stand for this portion of the worship service.

The Coming Week at FBC

Sunday, March 15

5:00pm Youth Gathering/Room 214

Monday, March 16

6:00pm Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Boy Scouts/Fellowship Hall

7:30pm Upper Room Ladies Bible Study/Zoom

Tuesday, March 17

1:00pm Staff Meeting/Church Office

Wednesday, March 18

4:00pm Wednesday's Neighbors/Parlor

5:00pm Wednesday Night Supper (Lasagna)/
Fellowship Hall

6:00pm Music Makers/Room 103

6:00pm Common Prayer and Bible Study/Music Suite

6:45pm Worship Ensemble Rehearsal/Music Suite

Thursday, March 19

8:30am Men's Breakfast/Bojangles

Friday, March 20- Church Office Closed

Readings for Today:	Readings for Next Sunday:
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 32	Psalm 130
Romans 5:12-19	Romans 8:6-11
Matthew 4:1-11	John 11:1-45

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Welcome to First Baptist Church!

Our membership is open to all persons regardless of race, social status, gender, and sexual identity and affirms our motto, “Breaking down barriers to proclaim the love of Christ.”

CHURCH STAFF

Angie France, Organist
Cyndi Harrell, Ministry Assistant
Dr. Chad Hartsock, Minister for Students
Rev. Nenette Measels, Minister of Music and Worship
Cameron Rowlett, Video Editor
Melanie Simpson, Pianist
Karen Treadway, Administrative Coordinator
Dr. Major Treadway, Senior Pastor

Deacons & Minister of the Week: March 15 - March 21

Merci Rowlett/Karen Snyder Smith/Major Treadway

CONTACT US

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Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:30-4:30pm, Closed on Friday

Secure online giving:

<https://www.fbcjeff.org/give>

Follow us on *Facebook* and *YouTube*!



We are glad that you are here!

If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to access our online response card.

You can also scan the code to submit a prayer request or let us know that you are interested in membership at First Baptist. Response cards and offering envelopes are also available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.