

+ Hymn of Response no. 2129

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

*The love of God calls us again and again to respond in new and creative ways. If part of your response today is to join this church or become a Christian, please come forward during this hymn, and one of our ministers will be happy to greet you.*

+ Welcome to New Members

We affirm you in your Christian Decision. We welcome you among us. We pledge to be for you a family of faith: learning with and from you, worshipping with you, laughing with you, and when needed, crying with you. Amen.

+ Affirmation of Faith

*Senior Pastor*

We believe in God: omnipresent, in every time, and in every place, generating and sustaining all life, nurturing relationship with Creation.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who lived and loved, taught and died; the One who conquered death and who surprises us with grace, when we least expect or deserve it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who journeys with us and makes our faith possible, in every situation and every circumstance.

We believe that every place we pause to recognize the mystery of our Triune God, is a sacred place. Surely, God is with us in every time and in every place, and we are grateful.

+ Pastoral Benediction

*Senior Pastor*

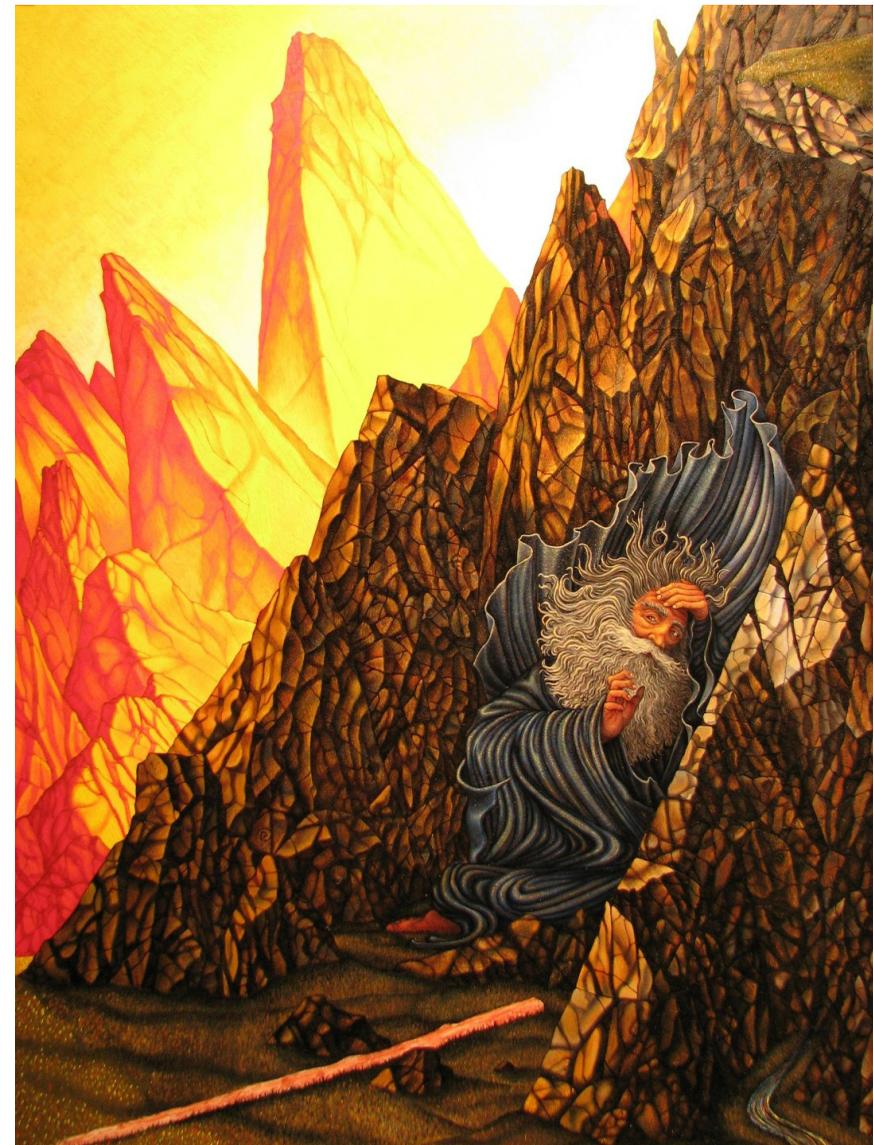
+ Congregational Benediction

We are travelers on a journey.  
Fellow pilgrims on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night time of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you;  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

Postlude Meditation and the Sending of the Light

*Church Organist*



*Moses* by Jack Baumgartner



**Generic**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# The Worship of God

We Your People, Ours the Journey

The Chiming of the Hour

*Church Organist*

Prelude Meditation

*Church Organist*

The Bringing of the Light and responsive reading of Psalm 99

*Acolytes*

The Lord is King! The Lord is King over all people and all creation.

**The foundations of God's throne are justice and equity, and Holiness and Justice are names for the Lord our God.**

The Lord is King! The Lord is King over the nations, and humanity's cultures, traditions and relationships.

**The foundations of God's throne are love and mercy, and Love and Mercy are names for the Lord our God.**

The Lord is King! The Lord is King over all thought, imagination, intuition, and the endless search for knowledge.

**The foundation of God's throne is wisdom, and Wisdom is a name for the Lord our God.**

**Come, let us worship this Holy and Wise God. Amen.**

Words of Welcome

*Church Member (Today's Liturgist)*

Choral Introit

In the Midst of New Dimensions

*To teach this beautiful new hymn, the choir will sing the first verse and chorus as today's introit.*

+ Processional Hymn no. 2238

In the Midst of New Dimensions

## Wounded World that Cries for Healing

+ Prayer of Confession

*Church Member*

+ Hymn of Confession no. 2177

Wounded World that Cries for Healing

Silence for Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

*Church Staff*

Prayers of the People

*Church Member*

Reading an Epistle over our Congregation

*Clergy*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

The words of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to that church, and this church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Listening for the Word of God

Time for Young Disciples

*Children's Minister*

*Children ages four through the fourth grade are invited to the front for Children's time. Children birth through kindergarten may follow the light to Children's church afterwards. They will re-enter the service during the hymn of response.*

+ Song for our Children no. 2272

We are Standing on Holy Ground

+ Gospel Reading

*Matthew 22:15-22*

*Church Staff*

The Gospel According to Saint Matthew

**According to you, Oh God.**

+ Singing of the Gloria Patri no. 2276

Glory to God in the Highest

Hebrew Bible Reading

*Exodus 33:12-23*

*Senior Pastor*

This is one of our sacred stories

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

When God Passes Through

*Senior Pastor*

## Responding

Silence for Reflection

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Church Member*

Offertory Anthem

Worthy of Worship

Celebration of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

*Church Staff*

Prayer of Consecration

*Senior Pastor*

Distribution of the Elements

*We believe that communion is the fulfillment of an ancient vision: Judas and Jesus at the same table.*

*Therefore, you don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the table of grace.*

*When the ushers invite you, please come forward.*