

Prayers of the People

God be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to God.

Church Member

Offertory

Church Organist

+ The Singing of the Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen.

+ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God: the God who so love the world.
We believe in Jesus: the Son who was given for us.
We believe in the Holy Spirit: working for good in our world.
And we believe in Love: a Love that never ends.

Senior Pastor

Celebration of Holy Communion

*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.*

Words of Institution

Church Member

Prayer of Consecration

Clergy

Distribution of the Elements

+ Passing of the Peace

+ Hymn of Response no. 200

What Wondrous Love is This?

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 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.

+ Life of the Church and Pastoral Benediction

Senior Pastor

+ Congregational Benediction

Frail Children of Dust

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail; in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end.
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Postlude Meditation and the Sending of the Cross

Church Organist



Moses and the Serpent, Marc Chagall



Generic
BAPTIST CHURCH

The people gather | March 11, 2018 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Worship of God

“Serpents and Salvation”

Gathering

The Ringing of the Trinity Chimes

Church Carillonist

Invocation

Church Member (Today's Liturgist)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

We come to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ.

This love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us.

Our challenge is to trust the light of God's love in the midst of our struggles.

We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus:

who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.

If only we will trust, Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

We come to celebrate our God who loved and loves us so much!

Prelude Meditation and the Bringing of the Cross

Church Organist

During Lent, the Christ candle, representing Jesus' light and unpredictable Spirit is replaced by a cross, reminding us of the suffering savior.

Introit

Remember God is Gracious

+ Processional Hymn no. 66

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Confession and Absolution

+ Psalm Litany

Clergy

Psalm 107

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble

and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and God saved them from their distress;

God sent out the word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the LORD for steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

Time for Young Disciples

Children's Minister

Children are invited to the front for a sermon just for them!

Song for our Children

Where Children Belong

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: this is where children belong.

Prayer of Confession

Church Member

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge, we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did: full of complaints and dissatisfaction. Nothing is enough; we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

Forgive us when we become so comfortable that we moan and groan about the most insignificant details of our lives.

In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites, to consider the bigger picture of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

Forgive us when we close our eyes for fear of what you might show us; keep sending loving and compassionate leaders to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.

Choral Anthem

Chancel Choir

And Can It Be?

Epistle Reading

Clergy

Ephesians 2:1-10

For we were dead,

But God makes us alive!

Assurance of Pardon

Senior Pastor

God is with us even in the darkness of Lent. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God!

Listening for the Words of God

+ Hymn of Praise no. 546

Amazing Grace

+ Hebrew Scripture Reading

Clergy

Numbers 21:4-9

A troubling, sacred story

Thanks be to God!

+ Gospel Reading

Church Staff

John 3:14-21

The Gospel According to Saint John

Praise to you, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

+ Singing of the Gloria Patri no. 704

Glory be to the Father

Sermon

Senior Pastor

Serpents and Salvation

Responding

Silence for Reflection