



# Welcome to Richmond's First Baptist Church

2709 Monument Avenue Richmond, VA 23220 | 804-355-8637 | fbrichmond.org

September 17, 2023 | 11 a.m.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Preparation For Worship

*An English proverb says, "Faults are thick where love is thin"; but God demonstrates the opposite and to a greater extent: "faults are thin where love is thick." In the first half of the letter to the Romans, Paul focuses on God's love for believers: "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Now, in the second half of the letter Paul emphasizes the love that believers must show towards each other because of the love they have received."*

—Elizabeth Shively

## The Chiming of the Hour

### Welcome and Invocation

Allison Collier

### Prelude, "O My Soul, Bless God the Father"

arr. Jan Bender

### Call to Worship, (from Psalm 103, NRSV)

Allison Collier

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**People: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.

**People: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

Leader: As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

People: As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

### Hymn No. 319, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Children are invited to gather on the front steps during this hymn.*

### Children's Sermon

Amanda Lott

### The Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35, (Pew Bible NT page 24)

Matthew Hensley





The worship services at Richmond's First Baptist Church are planned around the weekly readings from The Revised Common Lectionary. This biblically based approach to worship can be strengthened and enhanced by the awareness and preparation of our church family as we ready ourselves to meet God and each other in worship each week.

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, September 24, 2023: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

The flowers today are given to the glory of God in memory of  
Anne Poindexter Carter by Ginny Samuel and family  
Deacon and Mrs. Irving Dixon and Robert (Buddy) Dixon by Helen (Pat) Dixon  
Vivian Brickey by Ralph Brickey.

The 11 a.m. worship service is streamed on Sundays at [fbrichmond.online.church](http://fbrichmond.online.church)  
and on YouTube at [fbrichmond.org/youtube](http://fbrichmond.org/youtube).  
This week's Sunday worship will be broadcast in central Virginia on TV8 on a one-week delayed basis.

Wireless personal receivers are available for those who need assistance hearing in the Sanctuary.  
If your hearing aid is equipped with a T-switch, please activate it to utilize our hearing loop.

We gladly welcome families with children to worship today.  
Worship clipboards can be found at all sanctuary entry doors. During the Doxology children in grades 1-3 are invited to gather at the Children's Worship sign at the upper and lower piano-side doors.  
After Children's Worship in Suite 220, children will return to their pew during the final hymn.  
If you have any questions please feel free to ask an Usher or Greeter for help. We are glad you are here!

### **Ministry Leadership Staff**

Dr. James G. Somerville, Senior Pastor

#### **The Ministry of Christian Community**

Rev. G. Lynn Turner, Senior Associate Pastor  
Rev. Robert E. Thompson, Minister of Pastoral Care  
Becky Payne, Pastoral Care Associate

#### **The Ministry of Christian Formation**

Dr. Allison Collier, Associate Pastor  
Amanda Lott, Minister to Children & Families  
Michael Lacy, Student Ministry Assistant  
Alex Hamp, Preschool Administrator

#### **The Ministry of Christian Worship**

Dr. Philip L. Mitchell, Associate Pastor  
Ruth Szucs, Music Ministry Associate  
Eunice Kim, Pianist  
Cheryl Van Ornam, Organist

#### **The Ministry of Christian Invitation**

Rev. Matthew Hensley, Associate Pastor  
Lee Byerly, Recreation Director

#### **The Ministry of Christian Compassion**

Rev. Steve R. Blanchard, Associate Pastor  
Emma Tilley, Compassion Ministry Associate

#### **The Ministry of Communication**


Allen Cumbia, Director of Communication Technology  
Leigh Farmer, Communication Coordinator

#### **The Ministry of Support**

Donna Earley, Director of Stewardship & Development  
Kim Boys, Interim Business Manager

#### **Deaf Mission at Richmond**

Rev. Dirk Hill, Pastor

• **When You Give, You Make an Impact!**   
When you partner with Richmond's First Baptist Church financially, you help love and serve our neighbors here in Richmond and around the world. Use the QR code to give now, or give online at [fbcrichmond.org/give](http://fbcrichmond.org/give).

• **Blessing of the Animals | Oct. 8 | 4 p.m.**  
All animals are welcome to this service - dogs, cats, lizards, and hamsters. This Sunday event is open to everyone. We want to share your love for your animals by blessing and thanking God for them. Come and be with us. Make sure your animal is leashed or caged. The first 85 people will receive FREE Jiji's Frozen Custard.

• **A Spiritual Retreat: Emptying the clutter of our souls so we may hear, see, and feel God's presence | October 28 | 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Roslyn Retreat Center | \$30** | Do you feel like your life is out of control some days? Join us for a much-needed break this fall with retreat leader and storyteller, Annie Campbell, as she leads us on a journey to unclutter our souls so we can hear, see, and find the presence of God in the midst of all the clutter. Take advantage of the pre-sale to church members now. There are only 60 spots available. Tickets will be sold to the general public starting October 1. You can use the QR code, FBCnow! app or call Lori Humrich (804-355-8637 ext.126) to purchase your tickets. 


• **Please contact Kim Wicks at 804-358-5458 x122 or [wicks@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:wicks@fbcrichmond.org) to represent FBC as a messenger** at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. The meeting will take place **November 13-15 at Bon Air Baptist Church**, 2531 Buford Rd., Richmond, VA 23235. Visit [meeting.bgav.org](http://meeting.bgav.org) for details.

• **Have you ever thought about hosting a Christmas Tea Table?** We would love for you to host a table of eight women at the Christmas Tea on Sat., Dec. 9, 2-4 p.m. Hostesses provide dishes, table decorations, and favors for the 7 guests at their table. Contact Judy Watkins at [jhwnana8@gmail.com](mailto:jhwnana8@gmail.com) to sign up or to learn more!

• **Compassion Ministry has two items requested for donation each month.** In September, those items are toilet paper and disposable razors. Donations can go in the bin outside the Mulberry entrance.

• **Sunday Night @FBC | Starts September 24 | 5 p.m.**  
While adults enjoy programming (see below), children and youth are invited to take part in activities designed specifically for them. A supper at 6 p.m. for a small fee. See the "Sundays" section of our website for more information.

• **Wonderful Wednesdays | THIS FALL | Wednesday nights for our children & (middle-high school) youth.** Join the children as they learn about worship and music.  
5:30-6 p.m. Children's Chimes (1st-5th Grade)  
6-7:15 p.m. Music and Missions (Age 3-5th Grade)  
6-7:15 p.m. Pageant Group, Art Group, and Tech Group (Youth)

• **Behind the Curtain: A Series on Mental Health | Sept. 24-Nov. 12 | 5-6 p.m. | Suite 280 | Snack supper (6 p.m., \$5)** | One in five people in the U.S. live with mental illness and nearly a quarter struggle with addiction. Are you prepared to support your family and friends? This series is led by Karen Rice, LCSW, Director of Therapeutic Resources at the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls. 

• **Divorce Recovery Workshop | Sept. 24-Nov. 12 | 5:30-8 p.m.** | Registration is open for anyone experiencing loss of a relationship through separation, divorce, or major breakup. Find a safe place to enjoy education, support, encouragement, and opportunities to build new community and meaningful friendships. 

• **Bible Stories for Grownups | Sept. 17-Oct. 29 | 9:45 a.m. | Room 240A** | Did you make it this morning? If not, that's OK! Led by Allison Collier, this study will explore a Bible story each week. These are the familiar stories you likely heard as children. Now, as adults, we will explore them through a different lens. To reserve a book contact Kim at [wicks@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:wicks@fbcrichmond.org)