
The Worship of God
March 30, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Mikhail Vrubel - *The Demon Seated* - 1890



Third Baptist Church

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Please use this opportunity to silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices.

* = Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Brent Johnson

J. S. Bach: Christus der uns selig macht (BWV 620)

This Lutheran Passiontide chorale inspired Bach (1685 – 1750) on several occasions, writing for both solo keyboard and for voices. The original verse by Michael Weisse (1531) begins:

Christ, who makes us blessed
And has done no wrong,
Was for us in the night
Seized like a thief,
Led before godless people
And falsely accused,
Derided, mocked and spat upon,
As the scripture says.

Introit

Choir

William Fox: Teach Me Thy Way

In the first decades of the newly constituted Anglican Church, there was a pressing need for new settings of English texts, given that elaborate choral anthems with Latin words were not welcome. Among the less familiar church musicians to answer this need was William Fox (d. 1579), who served Ely Cathedral near Cambridge from 1571 until his death eight year later. He was clearly well versed in harmony and here he creates an elegant, if simple, arrangement of verses from Psalm 86.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth.
O knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy name.
I will thank thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will praise thy name
for evermore. Amen.

Welcome
(concluding)

Isaac Brett

Leader: So, we invite you to greet one another either here, or online by reaching out in the Chat or through a text or email. And we will conclude this Welcome in our traditional way with the Doxology.

***Passing the Peace of Christ and Doxology #815**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Hymn of Welcome**

#21 O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing (omit v.2)

AZMON

Charles Anthony Silvestri: March (written for TBC)

For each month in 2024 the Kansas poet, Charles Anthony Silvestri, wrote a holy sonnet for Third Baptist Church, following the tradition of both John Donne and Malcolm Guite, whose sonnets we often hear at Third.

The three men hang together, side by side
Upon their crosses on a lonely hill.
The one speaks up, intending to deride:
“O save yourself and us, just by your will!”
The other chided, “Have you no respect?
E’en in the face of death no fear of God?
O Lord, remember me among th’elect!”
And Jesus turned and answered with a nod.
The honest thief was taken in surprise
When Jesus spoke to him these words of love:
“This day you’ll be with me in Paradise!”
And gazed with holy eyes to Heav’n above.
May we, like him, be bold to ask our way,
If even to the final hour delay.

Offertory Meditation

Lansin Lim Kimler

Sasha Johnson Manning: March (from 'A Year At Third')

Since graduating from the Royal Academy of Music, Sasha (b. 1963) has made her living as a professional singer and composer in northwest England, where she grew up. In the late 1990s she served as the first 'Composer-in-Residence' to the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus. In 2022, Sasha created a monthly cycle of piano solos for Third, in the same spirit as Tony Silvestri's sonnets. However, her movement for March was directly inspired by a poem by Jones Very (1813 - 1880) whose opening is given below: there's a wistful quality to the music that immediately identifies it as both Sasha's distinct artistic voice, and a lingering melancholy that is very English in style.

In a barren land I wander,
And no tree, nor house I spy;
Lead me to a Rock for refuge,
Rock that higher is than I.

Responsorial Psalm

Lakisha Johnson

Psalm 7:6-11

Leader: Rise in your anger, O Lord!

People: Stand up against the fury of my enemies;

Leader: rouse yourself and help me!

People: Justice is what you demand,

Leader: so bring together all the peoples around you,

People: and rule over them from above.

Leader: You are the judge of all people: judge in my favor, O Lord;

People: you know that I am innocent.

Leader: You are a righteous God

People: and judge our thoughts and desires.

Leader: Stop the wickedness of evildoers

People: and reward those who are good.

Leader: God is my protector;

People: he saves those who obey him.

Leader: God is a righteous judge

People: and always condemns the wicked.

Anthem

Jesi Hempstead, Choir

Paul Laubengayer: Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs

Paul serves as organist to Southminster Presbyterian Church in Crestwood (MO), and often gives recitals with his sister, the flautist, Karen Laubengayer – hence this anthem is scored for wind instrument (today, the oboe). This piece was dedicated to Barbara Kuhlmann, youth choir director at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood: its text is taken from Isaiah, 53.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.

The chastisement of our peace is upon him

[Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.]

Scripture Lesson

David Sanjay

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Dr. Tommy Simons

The Darkness of this World: A Brilliant Disguise

*Hymn of Invitation & Declaration

#314 What Wondrous Love Is This?

WONDROUS LOVE

This American folk tune has been described as a 'white spiritual' from the South. It first appeared in print in 1811 during the Second Great Awakening, that Baptist and Methodist Revivalist movement which swept the nation in the first decades of the 19th century. We will hear it again on Good Friday, when it forms the basis for the central movement of Sasha Johnson Manning's "A Passiantide Rhapsody," written expressly for Third.

The Ordination of Deacons

Emma Graham
Stephen Schermitzler
Lakisha Johnson
David Sanjay

Benediction

Branden Brooks

Postlude

Brent Johnson

Dieterich Buxtehude: Canzonetta in G (BuxWV 171)

Here is a charming solo work by a Danish-German composer (1637 – 1707) whose artistry drew many musicians to study with him, not least J. S. Bach, who walked 250 miles to Buxtehude's home in Lübeck, and once there stayed three months "to comprehend one thing & another about his art."



Prayer List

Nursing care and rehab facilities

Delilah Canning, Friendship Village, Chesterfield, MO

Juanita Wallis, Cape Albeon, Valley Park, MO

Margaret Warman, Delmar Gardens of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, MO

Prayer Requests

Harold Beasley

Fran Blake

Jersey Dukes

Adam Grisson

Alisa Guider

Albert Gunn

Judith Hawk

Glenn Jefferies

Peggy Hemphill

Bobby Murray

Dawn Phillips

Dr. Tim Rice

Declan Rutan

Please send updates, addition or edits to this list via email to Sally, Ella or Pastor Tommy (sallyoando@att.net, ebanks@third-baptist.org, tsimons@third-baptist.org)

If you're a visitor today, we want to meet you! Please fill out a visitor card and leave it in the offering plate or use the QR code below to connect with Third Baptist online.



Calendar for March 30 – April 6

Sunday, March 30

- 9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, Various
- 11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube
- 12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold
- 12:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 2

- 12:00 PM Staff Meeting
- 5:15 PM Dinner and Adult Bible Study, Room 2
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday, April 5

- 11:00 AM Ladies Tea

Sunday, April 6

- 9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, Various
- 11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube
- 11:00 AM Godly Play
- 12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold
- 12:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Pastoral and Music Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons, Pastor

Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Dr. Philip Barnes, Director of Music

Brent Johnson, Organist

Lansin Lim Kimler, Pianist

Ty Gegel, Assistance: text 409.678.4786

