

Welcome to First Baptist Church

“Making much of Jesus among the peoples of the Earth,
Starting with the people next door.”

We’re glad you’re here!

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Sam Byers & Greg Pflasterer – Elders (also called pastors)

Keith Palmer, John Throgmorton & Jerry Wagner - Deacons

ORDER OF WORSHIP ~ AUGUST 7, 2016

- **WELCOME** – Grace and Peace to you!
- **CALL TO WORSHIP** – Psalm 16:1-2, 5-8, 11 ESV

LEADER: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

CONGREGATION: **I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”**

LEADER: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

CONGREGATION: **indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

LEADER: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

CONGREGATION: **I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

LEADER: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;

CONGREGATION: **at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

- **SONG** – 14. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (1st, 2nd, and 4 verses)
- **PRAYER**
- **SONG** – 252. Glory Be to the Father [Gloria Patri]
- **OLD TESTAMENT READING** – Numbers 16 ESV
- **SONG** – Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery
- **NEW TESTAMENT READING** – Luke 16:14-31 ESV
- **SONG** – 320. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (1st, 2nd & 3rd verses)
- **PRAYER**
- **SCRIPTURE READING** – 1 John 3:21-24 ESV
- **PASSING OF PEACE** – Let us welcome and greet each other!
- **SONG** – 386. Family of God (chorus only)
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **PRAYER**

- **SERMON TEXT** – Selected verses
- **TIME OF RESPONSE** [The Lord’s Supper, Offering, Prayer]
- **THE LORD’S PRAYER** – Matthew 6:6-13 KJV
- **SONG** – 253. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow [The Doxology]
- **PRAYER**
- **BENEDICTION** – Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV

LORD’S DAY MEDITATION

Sunday morning is not only a call to worship, but also a call to love.

We have a great commandment: love and worship God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This is first and central. Corporate worship is no less than loving God with all we are. But there is more. We also have a second commandment, which is like it, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Neither our worship of Jesus, nor our love for his people should be separated out to certain segments or hours of the week. Both are for all of life. And both are essential on Sunday morning.

Now, we must make sure the greatest commandment has its place. God must be first, foremost, and uncompromisingly central on Sunday morning. It is possible to make corporate worship (of all things!) into a mere horizontal, people-preoccupied event without Jesus’s majesty towering at the center. That’s a tragedy. We come together on Sunday to get God. To go hard after him. Our expectations are appropriately high. We arrive ready to feast our souls on the banquet of all he is and does for us.

Yet as sinful humans, we find our ways to taint even the purest of things — even Godward worship.

For those of us who have come to own the glorious truth that God, and God alone, is the supreme source and focus of our joy, we can begin to approach Sunday mornings with a subtly self-focused mentality. Knowing that mere duty dishonors God, we come to feast and relish the remarkable benefits of corporate worship. But holy self-interest can migrate to sinful selfishness if we’re not careful. And an important test is our awareness of and love for others.

Does the presence of others in worship regularly feel like a barrier to the “me and Jesus” experience you’re hoping to achieve? Do the crying baby, restless child, unpolished pianist, and typos on the lyrics slides seem like obstacles to worship, or like opportunities?

Our heart in corporate worship should not be to drown out the other worshipers from our consciousness with tightly shut eyes and a narrow focus on God, but to praise him as one of his people, from among his people, gladly part of a gathering.

Instead of minimizing others, and seeking to block them out to focus on Jesus, we can ask if we have needlessly offended anyone, or withheld harmony. Are we at peace with our fellow worshipers? It’s a cue to check our hearts. Worship of God in the old covenant was not meant to be divorced from love for others (Matthew 5:23–24); neither is it in the new.

In particular, the Lord’s Table serves as a regular reminder in the life of the church to seek reconciliation with both God and one another. Rather than going inward, and blocking others out, as we prepare our hearts to eat and drink in faith, we come to the Table together. It is a family meal. We eat and drink and worship together.

Source: Corporate Worship is a Call to Love by David Mathis