

Service of Worship | September 5, 2021



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Wilson, NC**

First Christian Church at Worship

September 5, 2021

Gathering Music	<i>Awesome God</i> arr. Bill Wolaver	Casey Childers, piano
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Gary Walling
Choral Centering		Matthew Joyner, soloist Casey Childers, piano

The Heart of Worship

When the music fades, and all is stripped away, and I simply come.

Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless your heart.

I'll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required.

You search much deeper within through the way things appear. You're looking into my heart.

I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about you, it's all about you, Jesus.

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about you, it's all about you, Jesus.

Call to Worship	from Hebrews 12	Phyllis Leary
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Leader: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,

People: **And let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,**

Leader: Who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

People: **Who disregarded its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Leader: Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks,

People: **Let us offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.**

Opening Hymn of Praise	<i>When in Awe of God's Creation</i>	CH #688 vs. 1,2,4
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When, in awe of God's creation, we view earth from outer space,
This mysterious, floating marble, strewn with clouds and bathed in grace,
How can we not pause in wonder, seeing earth as one and whole?
As we heal our proud divisions, may earth's healing be our goal.

Blue and tan, with lace clouds swirling, flung in space and circling there,
Habitat for myriad creatures meant for land and sea and air!
Must we draw our lines of hatred marking nations, class, and race?
God, forgive us, we entreat you, for all pride of self and place.

Now we face the unknown future, challenged by the work at hand.
Still the God of all creation summons us with one command:
“Love each other!” Will we do it? “Love each other!” Wars might cease!
“Love each other!” Justice follows: “Love each other!” There is peace!

Sesquicentennial Psalm: **Psalm 128** Phyllis Leary

**Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be
happy, and it shall go well with you.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your chil-
dren will be like olive shoots around your table.
Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jeru-
salem all the days of your life.
May you see your children’s children. Peace be upon Israel!**

Common Prayer **Our Sesquicentennial Prayer** Phyllis Leary

**During our Sesquicentennial, Lord, shake the dust of 150
years from our church. Shake us hard. Consecrate us afresh –
body, soul and spirit – to Your purposes. Lord, awaken us to
the complacency of our old age. And set us free. Refresh in
us Your ways and Your love. Raise up a passionate new
generation in our church, Lord, to demonstrate for one
another and for our neighbors your eternal Grace. With awe,
wonder and love, we pray these things in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

Children’s Moment Jeannette Etheridge

Pastoral Update Rev. Gary Walling

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Prayer ***God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*** CH #70 vs. 1,4,6
Matthew Joyner, soloist

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars.
How does the creature say, "Awe!", How does the creature say, "Praise!".

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grace,
How does the creature say "Grace", how does the creature say, "Thanks".

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart.
How do your children say, "Joy". How do your children say, "Home".

Scripture **Exodus 3:1-6** Phyllis Leary

Sermon Rev. Gary Walling

At the Crossroads of **AWE**, Wonder and Love

Solo Matthew Joyner, soloist

Song of the Wanderer by Dan Forrest

The barren land around me lies. My flame is burning low.
Cold and pale the winter skies and I am far from home.
With my light that burns so dim, am I visible to Him?
Does He hear the fragile song of creatures here below?

He wakes the lark and bids her fly to greet the coming spring,
Wakes our hearts and bids us rise then gives our spirits wing.
He speaks, and winter melts away, hears us when we come to pray,
Turns our nighttime into day – Our Light, our Life, our King.

Glorious joy of summer sun, the gentle healing rain,
Banishing our tears and sighs, with beauty for our pain.
Earth and sky, lay glory by- Christ the Lord is drawing nigh!
All creation, bow to Him from whom all blessings flow!

Blows the wind, and soon will come the autumn of the year.
With its golden light of love still shining ever clear.
From the rising of the sun to the place where day is done,
Peace on earth has now begun to cast away our fear.

[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]

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts	Rev. Gary Walling
Offertory	Casey Childers, organ <i>Arabesque on "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. John G. Barr</i>
Blessing of the Gifts	Rev. Gary Walling
Invitation to Communion	
Prayer of the Elder	Wendy Wingrove
Words of Institution	Rev. Gary Walling
Music for Communion	
The Lord's Prayer	Rev. Gary Walling
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.	
Benediction	Rev. Gary Walling
Postlude	Casey Childers, organ <i>Hornpipe from Water Music</i> by G. F. Handel

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FCC Consultation Process

Sunday, September 12, 3:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday Sept. 12, we ask that you join the congregation for a meeting with our Consultant to look to the future of First Christian Church. We have invited people of influence from our community to give us their ideas for what Wilson is doing and will be doing. It is important for as many as possible to join us so that we can get your ideas and interests in what our church will move toward. We will have ice cream for those of you who wish to take a break from the heat. Join us for this important meeting! 3:30 pm will be the time, the Fellowship Hall will be the place.

Tithes and Offerings are received with Thanks and Gratitude
They may be left in the offering trays or may be sent to:
First Christian Church of Wilson, PO Box 2702, Wilson, NC 27894
Or to give online, go to:
www.fccwilson.org/giving-options
Text FCCWILSON to 73256

Welcome!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today in person or online and hope the worship we share will prepare you for the coming week! We would be grateful if you would take a moment to provide contact information and/or feedback by email at seniorminister@fccwilson.org or calling the church office at 252-237-4125.

Consultation RSVP - Your response is needed!

If you missed the recent congregational meeting on August 8, 2021, we hope you will take **just a few minutes to answer two quick questions** discussed at that meeting. We would like to include your feedback in our visioning process for the Church.

Here is the link - <https://forms.gle/knf87PKbgMKU4mzc6>

20 DAYS REMAINING

Only 20 days until the 150th Sesquicentennial Celebration is here! Have you gotten your name on the list? So far we have reservations for:

Music for Hope Concert	59		Whirligig Tour	6
Pancake Breakfast	56		Banquet at Barton College Gym	75
Barton College Tour	12		Sunday Morning Worship at FCC	71

You can still register at <https://www.fccwilson.org/150response.html>

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Almond, Keith Brenner, Shane and Tammy Brewer, Sally and Bill Brizzi, Sue Ferrell, Dick Gurkin, Henry and Sue Newcomb, Issac Perry (Janice Whitehurst's father), Janet Robbins, Anna Jane Ruffin, JC Steelman (Theresa Mathis' father), Ron Taylor (former organist at FCC), Kathleen Ujlaki, AJ Walston, Sim Wooten (William Wooten's brother)

Church Calendar

Today, September 5

11:00am Disciples Class (in the Parlor)
FCC Rocks available to be painted

Monday, September 6

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 7

2:00pm CWF (Parlor)
5:30pm Encounter Rehearsal
7:00pm General Board Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 8

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 9

6:30pm Elder's Meeting

Saturday, September 11

9:00am Work Day at FCC

Board Meeting

There will be a meeting of the General Board of First Christian Church on September 7 at 7:00pm. Please mark your calendar and make every effort to attend.

FCC Workday

There will be a work day at First Christian Church on September 11 from 9-12. We will be doing some last minute "sprucing up" before the 150th Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)

The CWF will meet September 7 at 2:00 pm. All women of the church are invited.

First Christian Church

P.O. Box 2702 · Wilson, NC 27894

207 Tarboro Street NE · Wilson, NC 27893

Tel: 252-237-4125

Website: www.fccwilson.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FCCWilson

Rev. Gary Walling *Senior Minister*

Casey Childers *Organist and Minister of Music*

Charles Cauley *Interim Office Administrator*

Connie Farris *Financial Secretary*