

The Worship of God

May 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church

Gainesville, Florida

*****Please stand as you are able***

God's Work @ FBCG

Pastor Ray Johnson

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision (TCY; #83)

Grace Brodbeck, Piano

Call to Worship & Invocation

Linda Stott

What mysteries there are in God's world!

We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.

We look at the tiniest of seeds and cannot comprehend how that miniscule starting place can become a mighty plant.

Remind us that the kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed.

O God, teach us not to despise small things.

Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.

Turn our attention to the small things that bless others.

You have planted seeds of great potential in our souls.

*****Hymn of Wonder (Tune: #28) To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared?***

To what can the kingdom of God be compared?

A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,

And there, where predictable plantings should be,

There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:

Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.

Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,

Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.

A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:

A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,

A church reaches out to the youth in the town,

A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:

Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.

Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,

When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,

God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.

A girl sells possessions to help those in need;

A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;
May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

Baby Dedication – Grady James Lanpher

**** Hymn of Praise #97**

We Look Behind at All You've Done

We look behind at all You've done.
We trace the path on which we've come.
Holy Father, You are mercy!
Lord, everywhere we see Your hand,
The pattern of Your loving plan.
Holy Father, You are mercy!
Holy Father, You are mercy! You are mercy!

Through all the wanderings of our lives,
You daily lead us in the light.
Loving Father, You are faithful!
Through all the sin we cannot hide,
You claim us as Your holy bride.
Loving Father, You are faithful!
Loving Father, You are faithful! You are faithful!

We look ahead, O Lord, and see
A glimpse of all that is to be.
We exalt You! Alleluia!
Almighty God, Eternal Truth,
All life is always only You!
We exalt You! Alleluia!
We exalt You! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offertory Prayer

Billy Wright, Deacon

Offertory

Here I Am, Send Me (Purifoy; #523)

Grace Brodbeck, Piano

Message in Music

Reap What You Sow (Choplin)

Sanctuary Choir

Message

***Starting Small
Luke 13:10-21 (NLT)***

Pastor Ray

**** Hymn of Promise**

Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Benediction

Pastor Ray

Song of Sending

God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is among us, creation is blessed,
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.

Postlude

Grace Brodbeck, Piano

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