



Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

November 16, 2025 | 10:30am

Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning.
For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: [youareloved](#)

Welcome

Paula Antunes

If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Ringling of the Trinity

We Gather in the presence of God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit

*Call to Worship

Jason Betancourt

Inspired by Micah 6:6-8

With what shall we come before the Lord? What shall we bring into the presence of our God, as an expression of our worship and praise?

**Shall we bring God all that we own—
our finest possessions, our life-savings,
our investments and property?**

Would God be satisfied if we brought everything we possess?

No, that is not what God is looking for. God has told us what is good, and what is expected of us:

To do justice.

To love mercy.

To walk humbly with our God.

Prayer of Approach

Creator God, today we give you thanks for Halifax, the city we call home. We pray for the over half million people who live alongside us and for our calling to help make Halifax a just and good city for all who live here. May we learn to put our faith into action as we humbly walk the Way of Jesus in our city. Amen.

*Processional Hymn

*Stand as you are able

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO
 11.11.11.11

Gospel Reading: John 14:25-27

Ryan Cooke

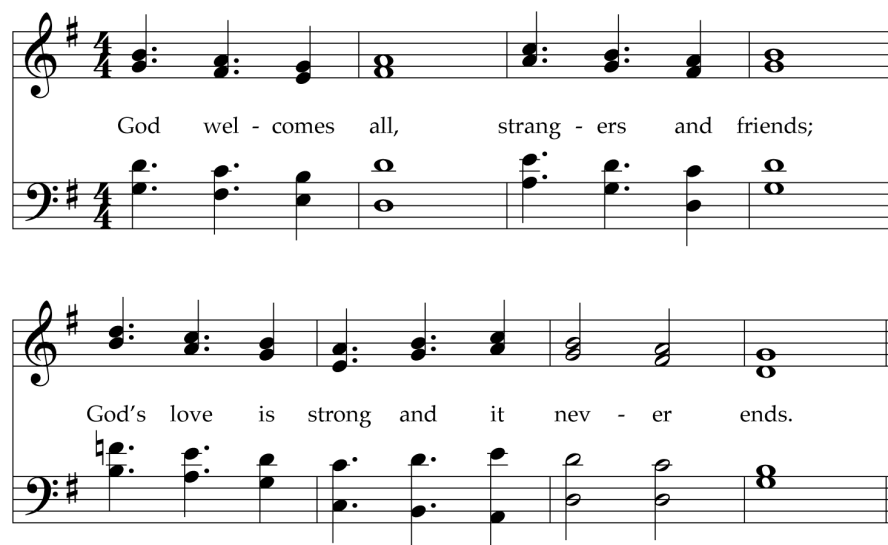
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

14:25 Jesus said: “I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Creator will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid...”

Children’s Hymn

God Welcomes All 399



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This “short song,” as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

Children’s Story

Rusty Edwards

*Blessing of the Children

Beloved children of our church family: may God’s Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your imaginations be opened to encounter God’s love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.

Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play.

Today’s formation activities: Music & Godly Play Story

***Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Donations

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or setting up recurring donations.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{29:1}These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon... It said: ⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

¹⁰For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

For the Good of Halifax

Anthem

Senior Choir

Ave Verum -Mozart

Hail,true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for all

Prayers Of the People

Dahrl Whitney

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn (next page)**

766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Allegro maestoso fr. Sonata 5 -Mendelssohn

The Week Ahead at FBCH

Today

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
12:00pm University Student Lunch; Parlour

Tuesday, November 18

7pm - Deacons Meeting; Community Room
7pm - Leadership Team Meeting; Office

Wednesday, November 19

11am - Community Outreach Meeting;
Community Room
7pm - Jazz Vespers; Sanctuary

Thursday, November 20

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Sunday, November 23

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
12:00pm - Youth Group; Sanctuary
4pm - Decorating the Sanctuary

**For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes*

CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

Paula Zanello Antunes | Community Engagement Lead
paulaantunes@fbchalifax.ca

David Bourque | Lay Minister
davidbourque30@gmail.com

John Dalton | Lay Minister
johndalton.hfx@gmail.com

Rusty Edwards | Senior Minister
rustyedwards@fbchalifax.ca

Jean Ferguson | Congregational Coordinator
office@fbchalifax.ca

Arla Johnson | Minister of Inclusive Community
arlajohnson@fbchalifax.ca

Lynette Wahlstrom | Director of Music
lynettewahlstrom@fbchalifax.ca

Special thanks to
today's worship leaders:

Dahrl Whitney
Ryan Cooke
Jason Betancourt

FIND OUT MORE

fbchalifax.ca 

CONNECT ONLINE

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HALIFAX

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Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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