



# ASCENSION SUNDAY

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026 | 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](http://fbchalifax.ca) or like us on social media.

\*Stand as you are able

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

#### **Prelude**

**Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ**

*Andante con moto* -Mendelssohn Sonata V

#### **Welcome**

**Paula Zanello Antunes**

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

#### **Ringing of the Trinity**

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

#### **\*Call to Worship**

**Shamim Sahebamei**

*From Gathering for Worship a British Baptist Book of Worship*

This is the place and this is the time;

here and now, God waits to break into our experience:

**to change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways;**

to make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light;

**to fill us with hope, joy, and vision for the future.**

This is the place as are all places;

this is the time as are all times.

**Here and now let us praise God.**

#### **\*Prayer of Approach**

**Spirit of God, the paths of our lives are uncertain. We come seeking your guidance, and yet we know that we will not always gain the clarity we seek. Help us find joy even in the uncertainty, knowing that your love goes with us wherever we might turn. Amen.**

#### **\*Processional Hymn (next page)**

# 260 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our food, our  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we

throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to -  
 now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves nor  
 stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from  
 own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your foot - stool,

ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on  
 ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him,  
 day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,  
 heaven your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,

The author regarded this text as a communion hymn, a theme that seems eclipsed by the attention to Christ's exaltation, but a helpful reminder that such hymns are not always quiet and meek. This text is sung to various tunes, but this rousing Welsh one is a favorite choice.

thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -  
 earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the songs of  
 robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both

ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
 all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Gospel Reading: John 16:12-15

Shamim Sahebamei

*The Inclusive Bible Translation*

<sup>16:12</sup>[Jesus said:] "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear to hear it now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth. She will not speak on her own initiative; rather she will speak only what she hears, and she will announce to you things that are yet to come. <sup>14</sup>In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me, for she will take what is mine and reveal it to you.

<sup>15</sup>Everything that Creator God has belongs to me. This is why I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you.

\*Children's Hymn (next page)

# God Welcomes All 399

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

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 and 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](http://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.*

## **New Testament Reading: Acts 21:1-6**

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

<sup>21:1</sup>When we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. <sup>2</sup>When we found a ship bound for Phoenicia, we went on board and set sail. <sup>3</sup>We came in sight of Cyprus, and leaving it on our left, we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, because the ship was to unload its cargo there. <sup>4</sup>We looked up the disciples and stayed there for seven days. Through the Spirit they told Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>When our days there were ended, we left and proceeded on our journey, and all of them, with wives and children, escorted us outside the city. There we knelt down on the beach and prayed <sup>6</sup>and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

*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**

*Divine Uncertainty*

**Rusty Edwards**

## **Anthem**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling -Rorem*

**Sr. Choir**

## **Welcoming New Member - Joe Fraser**

### **Welcome into the Congregation of FBCH**

**In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes. We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace.**

## **Prayers of the People**

**Janet Margeson**

### **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**

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

# Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

## The Servant Song

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the  
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each  
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out  
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and  
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.  
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.  
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.  
*(repeat stanza 1)*

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to “wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14).

TEXT: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.  
MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. Betty Pulkingham  
Text and Music © 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

THE SERVANT SONG  
8.7.8.7

**Benediction**

**Rusty Edwards**

**Amen**

**Postlude**

**Lynette Wahlstrom, Piano**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* -arr. Kartsonakis

---

## THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

### **Sunday, May 17**

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary  
11:45am - University Student Lunch; Parlour

### **Monday, May 18**

Victoria Day - Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday, May 19**

7pm - Deacons Meeting; Community Room

### **Wednesday, May 20**

7:00pm - Sacred Silence Sacred Sounds; Sanctuary

### **Sunday, May 23**

9:00am- 12 noon - Plant Sale; Parking lot

### **Sunday, May 24**

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary  
11:45am - Lunch with guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis

*\*For details go to [fbchalifax.ca](http://fbchalifax.ca) or read News Notes\**

## PLEASE NOTE: STAFF AWAY

Rev. Rusty Edwards will be away from May 18-27.  
For pastorate concerns during this time please contact one of our deacons.

Lynette Wahlstrom will be away from May 22 - June 12.

## 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:

Shamim Sahebjamei

Janet Margeson

Joe Fraser

## FIND OUT MORE

**fbchalifax.ca** 

## CONNECT ONLINE

First Baptist Church Halifax 

fbchalifax 

First Baptist Church Halifax 



FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
HALIFAX

\*Music reprinted and streamed by permission; One License #A-734863; CCLI Licence #3493424

## 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.

PRINTED  
ON:



Carbon neutral and made from recycled sugar cane fibre.