

The Worship of God

Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

**Please stand if you are able*

Chiming of the Hour

Beth McGinnis

Please turn off your cell phone and silently prepare for worship.

Prelude

“Prelude on ‘Brother James’ Air”
Searle Wright

Beth McGinnis

Welcome to Worship

Andy Farmer

Spoken Call to Worship

Andy Farmer

One: What can I give back to the Lord
for all the good things he has done for me?

All: I'll lift up the cup of salvation.
I'll call on the Lord's name.
I'll keep the promises I made to the Lord
in the presence of all God's people.

-Psalm 116:12-14 CEB

Sung Call to Worship

“It Is Well with My Soul”
Spafford/Bliss

Walker Burroughs

***Hymn No. 48**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
FAITHFULNESS

Graduate Recognition

Andy Farmer

Vestavia Hills High School

Camille Barth
Grayton Brooks
Milligan Burroughs
Walker Burroughs
Zach Burton
Chloe Fuller
Tyler Garner
Olivia Medley
Jessie Stevens
Steven Thackerson
Dylan Uhrig

Undergraduate & Graduate Students

Mary Grace Cox - University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Public Health
Anna Bodenhamer Daneri - University of Montevallo, Master of Education in School Counseling
Anna Donze - Auburn University, Master of Accounting
Rowdy Giles - University of Alabama, Master of Music Performance
Jennifer Hooks - University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Business Administration
Summer Hyche - University of Alabama at Birmingham, B.A. English
Maddie Lawry - Samford University, B.M. Vocal Performance
Ryan Medley - University of Alabama, B.S. Civil Engineering
Scott Phillips - University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Business Administration
Elise Pittman - Birmingham-Southern College, B.S. Biology
Patrick Pittman - Birmingham-Southern College, B.S. Business Administration
Jessica St. John - University of Montevallo, B.S. Biology
Cameron Johnson Weiler - Troy University, Master of Choral Music Education
Anna Scott Welch - Auburn University, B.S. Marketing
Alex White - University of Alabama at Birmingham, Master of Science in Math
Hank Womble - Auburn University, B.S. Industrial Design

Litany for Graduates

Andy Farmer

One: Graduates, you are gifts to your families and to us, your church.
As you go forward in this truth,
will you remember your heritage in the faith,
and depending upon God's grace and the ongoing support of this church,
seek to live out the teachings of Christ?

Graduates: We will.

One: Will you, members of the body of Christ,
recommit yourselves to be a community of support,
spiritual nurture, fellowship and prayer for these students?
Will you keep track of them, write notes, send care packages,
and hug them when they come home?
Will you offer a ministry of presence to their parents and loved ones
feeling mixed emotions, including both pride and a sense of loss?

All: **We will. May God help us keep our promises. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25
(NT p. 183 in pew Bible)

Patrick Pittman

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14
(NT p. 83 in pew Bible)

Libby Pittman

One: This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

Andy Farmer

One: Lord, we confess that we choose our own way.
 You are the way, yet we turn to follow another path.
 We confess that we believe things that are not true.
 You are the truth, yet we would have to change our minds
 to truly believe in you.
 We confess that we choose a life based on the priorities of the world.
 You are the life, yet we won't give up the false comfort of wealth and possessions.
 Forgive us, and help us to follow, believe and live.

Silent confession

One: As forgiven sinners, let us pray as he taught us:

All: **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 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
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

*Hymn

"My Life, My Heart, My All"
 Words, Terre Johnson; Music, AURELIA



1. I give my heart to Je - sus, my gra - ti - tude in - spired; He is my great - est trea - sure, his
 2. I give my life to Je - sus, the Life, the Truth, the Way. All oth - er paths are dim - ming be -
 3. I give my all to Je - sus, let no - thing stand be - tween. So rich - ly blessed and grate - ful, I



will my heart's de - sire. Those things I find most pre - cious be - come more pre - cious
 fore his brill - iant day. With Christ as el - der bro - ther to guide my jour - ney
 of - fer ev - 'ry - thing. His grace is my re - mind - er, his word my dai - ly



still As of - fer - ings to Je - sus, now hal lowed by his will.
 home, I fol - low where he leads me, and nev - er walk a - lone.
 call To of - fer in o - be - dience my heart, my life, my all.

Offertory Prayer

David Philpot

Offertory

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
 Johann Schop, Arr. James Pethel

Beth McGinnis

***Presentation of the Offering** "Easter People, Praise the Lord!"
DUKE STREET

Please stand to sing as the ushers pass your pew.

Eas - ter_ peo - ple_ praise the_ Lord! Let all that breathe God's praise af - ford!
And your hearts and_ lives now_ bring to our_ ris - en Christ and King. A - men.

Kindergartners may go to Room 210 in the Children's Building for Worship Care.

Pastoral Prayer

Gary Furr

Anthem

"The Call"
Z. Randall Stroope

Sanctuary Choir

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.
-George Herbert, 1593-1633

Sermon

"Living Stones"
1 Peter 2:2-10

Gary Furr

***Hymn No. 295**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
NETTLETON

Benediction

Gary Furr

Postlude

"I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord"
Arr. Dale Wood

Beth McGinnis

The flowers today were prepared by Mary Cherry and Jamie Freeman.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God, my Fa-ther, there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

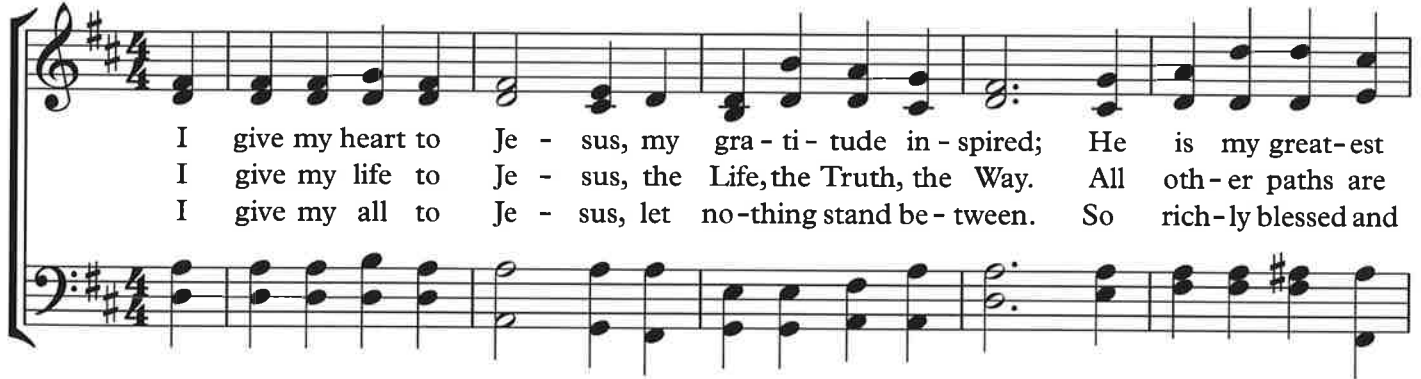
morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed, Thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

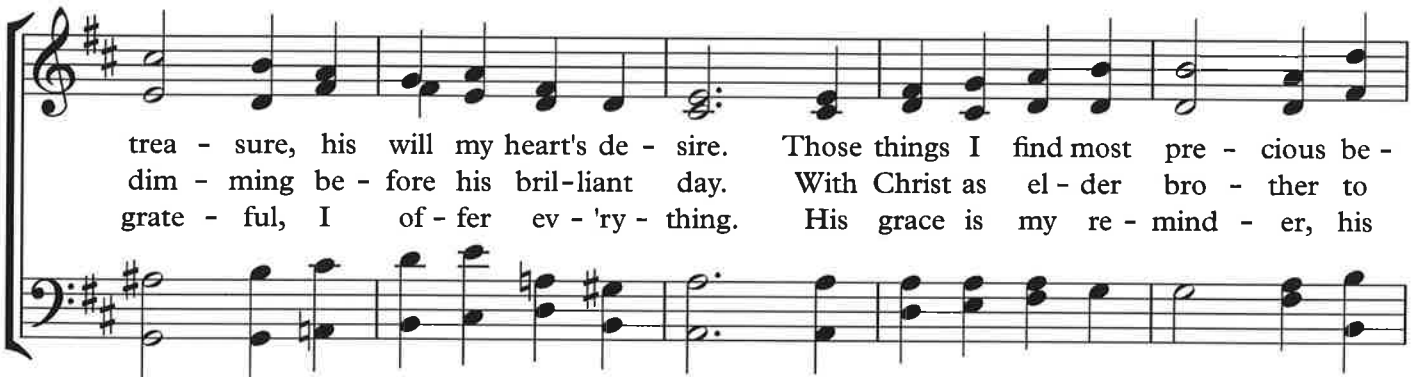
My Heart, My Life, My All

Terre Johnson

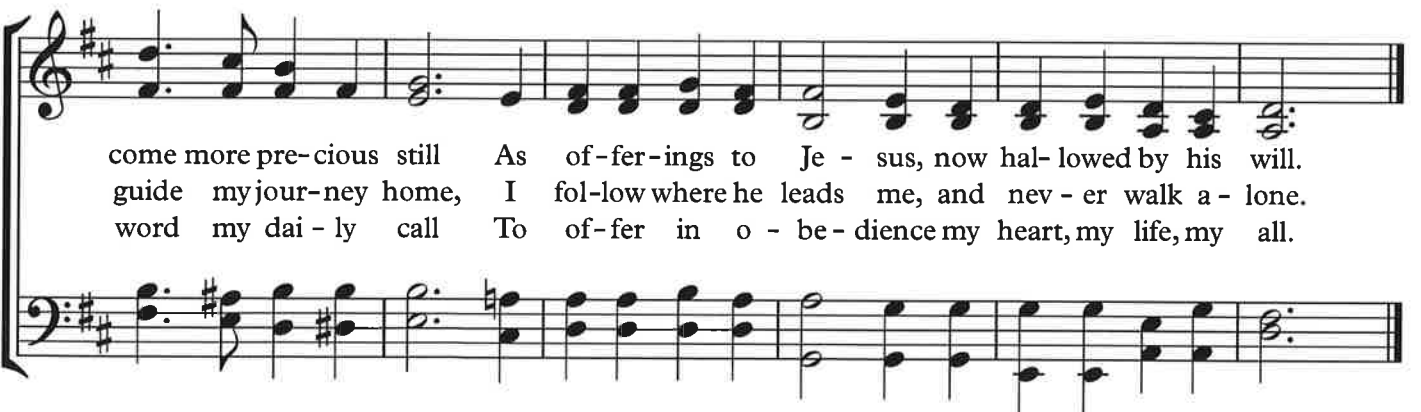
Samuel S. Wesley



I give my heart to Je - sus, my gra - ti - tude in - spired; He is my great - est
I give my life to Je - sus, the Life, the Truth, the Way. All oth - er paths are
I give my all to Je - sus, let no - thing stand be - tween. So rich - ly blessed and



trea - sure, his will my heart's de - sire. Those things I find most pre - cious be -
dim - ming be - fore his bril - liant day. With Christ as el - der bro - ther to
grate - ful, I of - fer ev - 'ry - thing. His grace is my re - mind - er, his



come more pre - cious still As of - fer - ings to Je - sus, now hal - lowed by his will.
guide my jour - ney home, I fol - low where he leads me, and nev - er walk a - lone.
word my dai - ly call To of - fer in o - be - dience my heart, my life, my all.

295 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise:
 and I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:
 Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:

teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

VHBC History Moment – 13

Backward glances are a luxury. We live in a world with pressures and changes every day. The pace is challenging and congregations scramble to remain sturdy and viable. Meanwhile, every member's life is in motion—births, growing, families starting, some dissolving, all going through the seasons of life. Sufferings come, crises intervene, and even the normally expected parts of life are exacting.

What about church organization and ministry at VHBC? This decade has been fruitful, turbulent, and full of accomplishments: a new hymnal, facilities improvements, the adoption of both a legacy-giving plan and a long-range plan for maintenance and expansion. We survived a major recession and the extraordinary achievement of debt reduction positioned us to weather the storms, but not without some difficult discussions and sacrifices.

In 2007, our new fulltime Minister of Music and Worship, Dr. Terre Johnson, was only two years into his time with us. Our beloved Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Otis Brooks, was a “fulltime part-time” Minister to Senior Adults. Mike McBrayer celebrated a fifth anniversary with us that year as our Minister to Students. Nancy Akins had completed seventeen years as Minister to Children and Dr. Dennis Anderson had served VHBC for twenty-two years as Minister of Education and Administration. The VHBC Childhood Development Center was directed by Jennifer Cox with a total of eight years of service. Dr. Betty Sue Shepherd, longtime and extraordinary Organist for thirty-eight years, retired at the end of a long health struggle. The church was blessed to have Dr. Beth McGinnis to fill her shoes.

Driven by the passion and energy of our members the missions emphasis continued to expand. In 2007, a team of fifteen members traveled to Kenya to participate in the mission field. Later three Kenyan pastors came and spent three weeks with us.

The church was about to change demographically too. Over this decade, we have gotten younger and older simultaneously. By May, 2016, we experienced 133 member deaths over a nine-year period. We acknowledged that our faithful and deep well of longtime leaders from us.

Such losses of deacons, teachers, children's workers, faithful and generous stewards, mission leaders, beloved friends and family are difficult. If the signature of strength in a church is its rational life, its suffering in the disruption of those ties is wrenching.

Purposefully, leadership changed as we saw our need to reach out to younger families and their children. We welcomed new lives, babies, and young families. Their names and faces appeared on the leadership rosters, the deacon body and other Nominating Committee recommendations. They stepped in, put their shoulder under the workload of the church and produced a bright light of hope for the future.

What's Next?

<p style="text-align: center;">Outdoor Concert Tonight 6-7 PM in the Amphitheater out front</p> <p>See you back here this evening to support our youth and their upcoming International Mission Experience! Walker Burroughs will be playing music and hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be available for a small donation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Music and Missions Celebration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This Wednesday May 17, 6:00 p.m. In the Sanctuary</p> <p>Don't miss our annual celebration of preschool and children's Music & Missions programs.</p>													
<p style="text-align: center;">Permanent Endowment Fund Exceeds 60th Anniversary Goal</p> <p>What a joy it was as the congregation exploded in applause when Kay Wilburn, chair of the Permanent Endowment Fund, shared at the luncheon on Sunday that the 60th Anniversary goal of \$250,000 has been exceeded. In twelve months since the church voted to establish the Permanent Endowment, over 100 families have given \$267,181. This insures that within the next twelve months, distributions can be made to help fund ministries, special missions efforts, and capital needs.</p> <p>Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Our prayer is that God will continue to inspire more of our church families to participate in contributing to the fund by giving now and by making arrangements to make gifts effective at their death. If you would like more information about how you can participate in giving to the fund, contact Dennis Anderson in the church office, 979-5920.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vacation Bible School June 12-15</p> <p><u>VBS is open to completed Kindergarten–Grade 5 for the public</u>, also Preschool 4 for VHBC children, and child care for workers' children Babies-age 3. Our 6th Graders will be with Andy. Register at Eventbrite.com</p> <p>We'll take the fun to Spring Valley Beach again this year on Friday! Join us!</p>													
	<p style="text-align: center;">Deacons Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Sunday, May 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 p.m. - Adult Seminar Room</p>													
	<p style="text-align: center;">Called Business Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Sunday, May 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Following the Worship Service</p> <p>Agenda: Church endorsement for Summer Hyche to attend Duke Divinity School.</p>													
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Worship Care Teacher for Today</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Babies</td> <td>Sharon Hartzog, Jane Helms</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ones</td> <td>Scott McGinnis, Judy Schlegel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool 2-3</td> <td>Todd & Rachel Jordan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool 4</td> <td>Ann Bush, Adam Pouncey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kindergarten</td> <td>Arthur & Jan Deagon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preschool Desk</td> <td>Liz Philpot</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children's Desk</td> <td>Janice Fulks</td> </tr> </table>	Babies	Sharon Hartzog, Jane Helms	Ones	Scott McGinnis, Judy Schlegel	Preschool 2-3	Todd & Rachel Jordan	Preschool 4	Ann Bush, Adam Pouncey	Kindergarten	Arthur & Jan Deagon	Preschool Desk	Liz Philpot	Children's Desk
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