



EASTER

**VESTAVIA HILLS
BAPTIST CHURCH**

MAY 5, 2024
Anniversary Sunday
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Nancy Akins, Minister to Preschool and Children
Sara Binet, Interim Student Ministry Coordinator
Mike McBrayer, Executive Pastor
Beth McGinnis, Organist
Eric Spivey, Senior Pastor
Laura Tadlock, Senior Adult and Adult Ministries Coordinator
Marty Watts, Minister of Music and Worship

2600 VESTAVIA DRIVE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216

205-979-5920
WWW.VHBC.COM

WELCOME!

Thank you for worshipping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate fully in worship, ministry, discipleship, and fellowship at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. Our hope is to make a warm, caring community that you can call home. To keep up with VHBC events, services, and more, please visit us at www.vhbc.com.

Special Welcome to Our Guests

Individuals and families new to Vestavia Hills Baptist Church are invited to connect to our church by completing a connect card found in the pew rack. Cards may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed during the service or given it to a minister. You may also visit www.vhbc.com/connect and submit the digital connect form there.

Children and Worship

Worship Care for children, birth through kindergarten, is available during the worship hour in the Children's Building, rooms 216, 217, and 218. Children, first grade and older, worship with their families in the Sanctuary. Children's worship bulletins, crayons, and books are available on the cart in the foyer outside the Sanctuary.

Sunday Morning Bible Study Classes

Every Sunday morning at 8:45 am, there are small group gatherings for all ages. These groups meet for fellowship and Bible study. Classes for children and youth are offered by age; classes for adults are offered by ages and life-stages or by topical interests.

Accessibility Resources

Large-print hymn sheets may be found in the foyer. Personal assistive listening devices are available from the Worship Technology Team in the back of the Sanctuary.

How to Join VHBC

Any person may join this congregation on the basis of their affirmation of Jesus Christ as Lord. You may communicate your desire for church membership by coming to the front of the Sanctuary during the closing hymn, by meeting privately with a member of our pastoral staff, or by placing a connect card from the pew rack in the offering plate. After meeting with the pastor, new members will be introduced on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening.

An individual may come on *profession of faith*, which means you believe in Christ as Lord and Savior and wish to be baptized and become part of this church. One may also come on *transfer of letter* from another church having received Christian baptism, or by *statement of your faith* in Christ and Christian baptism in another church.

Remote Worship Opportunities

Sunday morning worship at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church is streamed online at www.vhbc.com and on the church's Facebook and YouTube pages and is also broadcast live at 10:00 am on the radio at WAJH 91.1 FM.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Preparation for Worship

"By believing against all odds and loving against all odds, that is how we are to let Jesus show in the world and to transform the world."

— Frederick Buechner

"The prophetic tasks of the church are to tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion, grieve in a society that practices denial, and express hope in a society that lives in despair."

— Walter Brueggemann

Chiming of the Hour

Dianne Norton

Prelude

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Arr. David Lowe

Dianne Norton

*Hymn No. 590

"The Solid Rock"

SOLID ROCK

stanza 1: children only

stanza 2: all, seated

stanzas 3-4: all, rising in body or in spirit

Welcome

Mike McBrayer

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

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Recognition of Charter Members

Mike McBrayer

Margaret Northrup

Linda Sanders

Lottie St. John

***Anniversary Affirmation**

Anna Claire Bailey, Dave Johnson,
and Luke Binet

*Written by Otis Brooks, Pastor, 1969-1988,
for the fifteenth anniversary of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church
and the dedication of the Sanctuary*

All: Let this be the church of the free, whose daring has called them upon religious pilgrimage.

One: Let this be the church for those who are confused and baffled, that they may find light for their darkness. Let this be the church for those who are sick in mind and body, that they may find healing for their illnesses.

All: Let this be the church for those that are stabbed by the guilt of sin, that they may find forgiveness in the God of a crucified Christ.

One: Let this be the church of the family, that the home may be strong and secure. Let this be the church of the young, that the future may be a meaningful adventure.

All: Let this be the church of parents, that they may be a source of joy to their children.

One: Let this be the place of singing, where the real faith we hold to becomes a song in our hearts. Let this be the place of prayer, where the lonely may come and not leave alone.

All: Let this be the church where all people know their oneness in Christ and are no longer divided in their ways.

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:44-48
(OT p. 389-390 in the pew Bible)

Brandon Bates

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

1 John 5:1-5
(NT p. 96-97 in the pew Bible)

Cherri Morriss

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Time of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Marty Watts

One: Gracious and merciful God, as we reflect this day on the journey of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, we are reminded of your faithfulness throughout the years, sustaining us through trials and triumphs, guiding us with your wisdom, and empowering us to serve as instruments of your peace and justice in the world.

We come before you now with contrite hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and failures as individuals and as a community. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have fallen short of embodying your love and grace, for the moments when we have neglected the needs of others, and for the times when we have allowed division to overshadow unity. Grant us the humility to recognize our faults and the courage to seek reconciliation and renewal.

Silent prayers of confession

In the midst of our brokenness, we cling to the assurance of your unending grace and boundless love. You are the God who forgives, restores, and transforms us, welcoming us back into your embrace with open arms.

May this Anniversary Sunday provide a time of reflection, renewal, and recommitment to the mission and ministry you have entrusted to us. Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, that we may continue growing together in faith, love, and unity, and may we reach out with the transformative power of your gospel.

With trust in the healing embrace of our Savior, we proclaim:

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.**

One: In the light of your resurrection, we claim your forgiveness and pray as the first disciples were taught.

**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 No. 619**

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”
ASSURANCE

***Offertory Prayer**

Brent Warren
Deacon of the Week

Your financial gifts assist Vestavia Hills Baptist Church in sharing God’s love in our own community and around the world. Contributions given in person may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also give online by scanning the QR code or going to www.vhbc.com/giving. Either log in as a registered user of the church’s Shelby database or click “give now” to contribute as a guest user.



Musical Offering

“This Is My Father’s World”
Arr. Dale Wood

Dianne Norton

***Presentation of the Offering**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all people here be-low.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more.
Praise Three-in-One whom we a-dore. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Recognition of Permanent Endowment Fund Grants

Keith Hamilton

Worship in Song

“Like a River in My Soul”
Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Tom Osiek

Sanctuary Choir

I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.
I’ve got peace like a soothing river, calmly flow.
When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.
I’ve got love like an endless ocean, deep and full.
When you’re lost and alone, let the waves bring you home.
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies,
Just remember, once again you shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain,
Love like an ocean,
Peace like a river,
In my soul.

Sermon

“Holy Interruptions”

Eric Spivey

***Hymn No. 281**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
BEECHER

***Benediction**

Eric Spivey

***Departing Song**

“Grow Us Together”

Musical score for the song "Grow Us Together". The score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: "Grow, grow, grow us to - geth - er. Grow us to - geth - er in u - ni - ty and love. Grow, grow, grow us to - geth - er, Grow us to - geth - er, to - geth - er in love."

WORDS: Rosemary Crow, alt.
MUSIC: Rosemary Crow; arr. Elise Eslinger
© 1979 Rosemary Crow

***Postlude**

“Praise to the Lord”
Arr. David Cherwien

Dianne Norton

*The artwork on the bulletin cover is a digital rendering
by church member Jim Basinger of our Lenten banner.*

The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Louise Burton by her family.

*The Flowers on the Foyer credenza are dedicated by Carol Ann Morrison and family in loving
memory of Carolyn Cain in honor of her 100th birthday.*

Extending the Sermon
Sunday, May 5, 2024
6th Sunday of Easter

Title: *Holy Interruptions*

Primary Scripture: Acts 10:44-48

2nd Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. Acts 10:44 (NRSV)

Reflection: What Holy Interruptions in the story of Peter and the Centurian stand out to you?

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Acts 10:45-46 (NRSV)

Reflection: Where have you been astonished by a Holy Interruption in your life? How did you respond?

Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" Acts 10:45-46 (NRSV)

Reflection: Name a step you might take to be more open to the Spirit's interruptions in your life.

2024 PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Because of the generous response of church members over the past eight years, the Permanent Endowment Fund ended 2024 with over \$827,000 in assets. As a result, the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee was able to make grant distributions of over \$24,000 this year to enhance our Missions projects, Ministry activities, and Capital needs. The committee is proud to announce that this year's grants will support the following ministries:

Missions Committee (Urban Ministries and Lemaroi Christian School [Manipur, India])

Fellowships and Special Events (Fall Kickoff Activities)

Children's Ministry (Children's Camp)

Student Ministry (International Mission Experience and Student Building Furnishings)

Building and Grounds Committee (Audio/Visual Upgrades)

The Permanent Endowment Fund has been able to make over \$139,000 in grants since the church created the fund in 2016. Consider how you can give a gift now and through your estate planning to the church's Permanent Endowment Fund to ensure future grants. You can receive more information through the church financial office in a personalized confidential manner. Also, feel free to contact any member of the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee: Keith Hamilton (Chair), Roger Bates, Jan Deagon, Howard Finch, Becky Griffith, and David Whitt.

SERVING TODAY

WORSHIP CARE

Amy Hamilton, Caroline Nordlund, Libby Pittman, Vickie Furr, Gary Furr, Judy Schlegel

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Brent Warren, Steve White

WELCOME TEAM

Joe Perez, George Elliott, Cappy Blackwelder, Dan Caldwell, Lisa Speegle, Jason Cooper, Sharon Repp

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Brent Warren, Dan McMurray

FLOWERS

Marsha Baker

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Abby Donze, Ken Farley

COUNTING TEAM

Dick Bodenhamer, Bob Booth

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

WORSHIP CARE

Amy Hamilton, Caroline Nordlund, Libby Pittman, Vickie Furr, Gary Furr, Judy Schlegel

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Brandon Bates, Elise Alexander

WELCOME TEAM

Joe Perez, Carolyn Slappey, Lisa Speegle, Dan Caldwell, Sharon Repp

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Norfleete Day, Dan McMurray

FLOWERS

Mary Cherry/Jamie Freeman

TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Chris Speegle, Tommy Cherry

COUNTING TEAM

David Compher, Danny Cox

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:45 am Bible Studies for All Ages
*Use this QR code to find a listing of Bible Studies
for preschool, children, youth, and adults.*



10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm YOSE (Youth on Sunday Evening)

MONDAY

4:00 pm 428 Youth Gathering (First & Third Mondays)

WEDNESDAY

7:00 am Prayer Breakfast on ZOOM

4:45 pm Fellowship Dinner
*Monte Christo sandwich with Pepper Jelly,
Potato Salad, chips and dessert*

*Make your dinner reservation by Tuesday
morning using this QR code or calling the
Church Office.*



4:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal

5:30 pm Preschool and Children's Music and Missions

6:00 pm Wednesday Sessions

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

WHAT'S NEXT AT VHBC?

Visit www.vhbc.com/newsletter or use this QR code to access the church's bi-weekly newsletter, which includes an article from one of the ministerial staff, reflections on recent events, and details of upcoming opportunities.



Wednesdays in May

- May 8th:** **Midweek Bible Study with Eric** – *Bible as Scripture* - at 10:00 am in the Seminar Room
Contemplative Prayer at 6:00 pm in the Chapel
Children's End-of-Year Program at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- May 15th:** **Shrimp Boil Wednesday, May 15th**
- May 22nd:** **A Summer of Kindness:** Eric shares a preview of his summer sermon series focusing on kindness at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Contemplative Prayer at 6:00 pm in the Chapel
- May 29th:** **Around the Town for Dinner with the Staff** at 5:30pm
Marty at Newks in Vestavia
Sara at The Standard in the Vestavia City Center
Nancy at Salvatore's in Hoover
Mike at Full Moon BBQ on Hwy 280

SAM Spring Luncheon Friday, May 10 at 11:30am Fellowship Hall

Footprints in the Sky: Voices from Chandler Mountain with Storyteller Dolores Hydock.
Lunch is \$10 at the door. Sign up at VHBC.com or call the Church office to register.

Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 12th

Graduates will be recognized and celebrated during our service on May 12th. If you know someone who is graduating from college or a graduate program that you want to highlight in this service, please e-mail Sara Binet (sara@vhbc.com) with the graduate's name and phone number.

Looking Ahead:

VBS - *Scuba diving into friendship with God*

June 10-13 9am – noon

Register online now

The Solid Rock

590

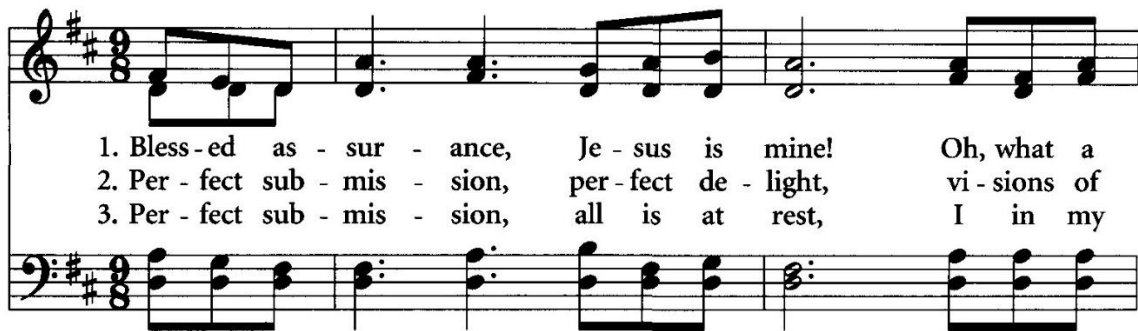
1. My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark-ness seems to hide His face, I rest on His un -
 3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the
 4. When He shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, He
 Him be found, dressed in His right-eous - ness a - lone, fault -

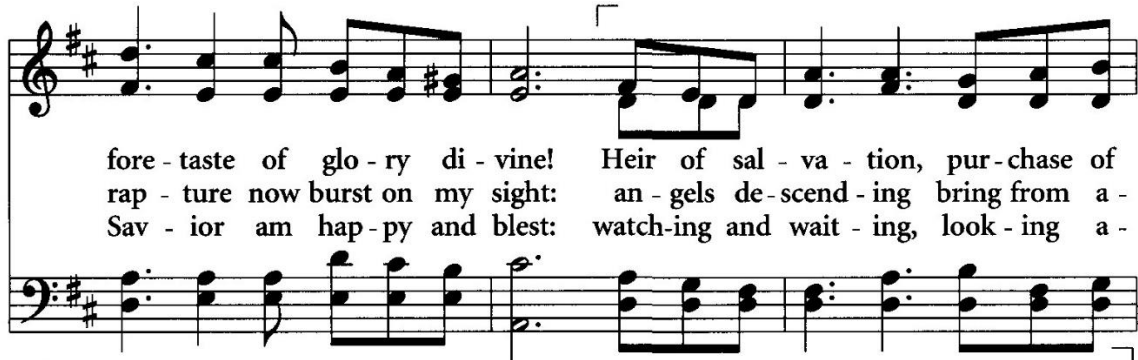
whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay. less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

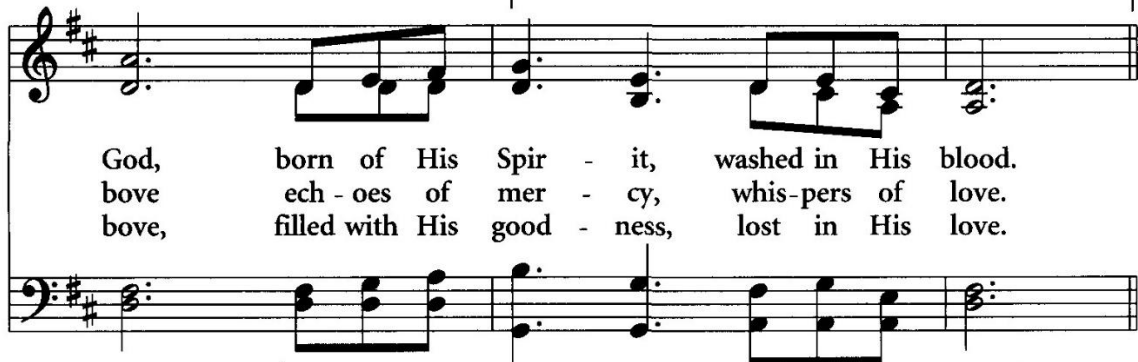
Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine 619



1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



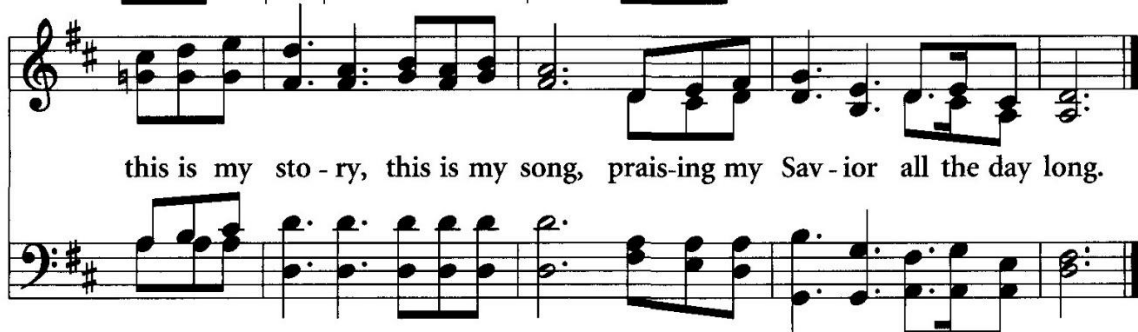
fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight: an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest: watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of His Spir - it, washed in His blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with His good - ness, lost in His love.



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

281 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell-ing, joy of heaven to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all Thy grace re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

