

Worship Service for January 11, 2026

Welcome and AnnouncementsLisa Hess

*Martin Luther King Jr. Ecumenical service will be held at the Federated Church in Arlington. On January 19 @ 7pm.

2 - 1 - 2026

Notice of First Baptist Church Annual Meeting

The members of The First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, Vt are hereby notified to meet in person at their house of worship in Manchester Center, VT or by Zoom, or by phone following workshop and lunch on February 8, 2026 for the following purposes:

1. To determine the leadership direction to maintain the structure of the past or to embrace the new Church Leadership Council pathway into the future.
2. To elect officers and committee members for the coming year or members of the Church Leadership Council.
3. To hear the reports of the officers and committees for the past year and act thereon.
4. To hear, discuss, and act upon any other business proper to come before the congregation.

Church Clerk
Dottie Sundquist

Upcoming **Events**

Monday 9-1 Pastor Theresa's office hours

2pm..... Uplift Cancer support group at Linda H house

7pm Building Preservation meeting via zoom

.....Annual reports are due to Jeremy Crumb

Tuesday 7pm via zoomPrayer group/book study – “What happens next” by Max Lucado ch 1&2

Wednesday 5pm..... Prudential meeting

7pm via zoom Mission meeting

Saturday 9am..... Men's breakfast & Devotional

4-7pmPot luck and game night

Sunday 8:30..... Mary & Martha breakfast meeting

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

Liam O'Brien on Saturday; Eric Hill & MIA Vickery Today.

Thank you to all who contributed poinsettias this holiday season.

Word of Preparation - Lisa Hess

Prelude ~ Ruth's Song (Where You Go, I Will Go)

Verse 1

All my life I have wondered,
Wondered where I might belong.
Feeling lost, like a stranger,
Wand'ring far, all on my own,
Without a home, without a people,
Without a hope, without a prayer,

Without a way, that I could follow,
Then I turned and you were there.

Chorus 1

Where you go, I will go.
Where you stay, I will stay forever.
Where you lead, I will follow.
So, I can know the One you know.

Verse 2

Under His wings, you found a shelter.
You have no fear. you have no shame.
And when you call, He seems to answer.
He even seems to know your name.

Chorus 1

Bridge

Then somehow, should I find His favor,
I won't look back, on all I've known.
Your people, then will be my people;
And your God, my God alone.

Chorus 2

Where you go, I will go.
And you know, I will never leave you,
Not even death will ever part us.
Now that I know the One you know.

Ending

I will go, now where you go.

Marty Goetz, Misha Goetz
CCLI Song #7087642
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Call to Worship ~ based on Psalm 89 – Christine Longhurst
Please join in reading the **bold** lines.

I will sing about the wonders of your love forever, O God!
I will tell everyone I meet about your faithfulness to all generations!

I will declare that your love stands firm,
that your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above!

Blessed are those who know you as their God,
for they walk in the light of your presence!

Hymn - #620 Blue Hymnal - The Lord will make a way somehow

Verse 1

Like a ship that toss'd and driven, battered by an angry sea,
when the storms of life are raging, and their fury falls on me,
I wonder what I have done that makes this race so hard to run,
then I say to my soul, take courage,
the Lord will make a way somehow.

Refrain.

The Lord will make a way somehow,
when beneath the cross, I bow;
He will take away each sorrow,
let him have your burdens now;
when the load bears down so heavy,
the weight is shown upon my brow;
there's a sweet relief in knowing,
oh, the Lord will make a way somehow.

Verse 2

Try to do my best in service, try to live the best I can,
when I choose to do the right thing, evil's present on every hand,
I look up and wonder why that good Fortune passes.
It just passed me by, then I say to my soul, be patient. The Lord
will make a way somehow. Refrain.

Verse 3

Often there's misunderstanding out of all the good I do,
go to friends for consolation, and I find them complaining, too,
so many nights I tossed in vain, wondering what the day will
bring,
but I say to my heart, don't worry,
the Lord will make a way somehow. Refrain

Praying Together :

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors
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 #609 Blue Hymnal - Take My Life And Let It Be

Verse 1

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful, for Thee,
Swift and beautiful, for Thee.

Verse 3

Take my voice and let me sing; Unto God my praise I bring.
Take my lips and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Verse 4

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Verse 5

Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Verse 6

Take my love my Lord I pour At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever only, all for Thee,
Ever only, all for Thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal, Henri Abraham Cesar Malan
CCLI Song #1390

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Intro to sermon - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Scripture text - Ruth 1:1-22

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. ³Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. ⁴Now they

took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they [c]dwelt there about ten years. ⁵Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Naomi Returns with Ruth

⁶Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. ⁷Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." So, she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? *Are* there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, *if* I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, ¹³would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!"

¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, *Or* to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried.

The Lord do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me." ¹⁸When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her. ¹⁹Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "*Is* this Naomi?"

²⁰But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" ²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Sermon - "Hope in the midst of chaos" - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Song - #11 Red Hymnal - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Verse 1

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father.
There is no shadow, Of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain from

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, New mercies I see,
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Verse 2

Summer and winter, And springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars, In their courses above
Join with all nature, In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, Mercy and love. Refrain.

Verse 3

Pardon for sin, And a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence, To cheer and to guide.
Strength for today, And bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, With ten thousand beside. Refrain

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan
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Benediction - Jeremiah 17:7-8

7But I will bless those who trust me, the Lord.

8They will be like trees growing beside a stream—trees with roots that reach down to the water, and with leaves that are always green. They bear fruit every year and are never worried by a lack of rain.

Purpose:

To share the love of Jesus

Vision:

Beacon of hope, welcoming all

Mission:

Worship God, Follow Jesus, Rely on the Holy Spirit, and Love Everyone.



January 11, 2026

For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.

Ruth 1:16