

Sunday Worship

July 19, 2026

*Nursery care is available for children up to age 3
in the Nursery on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.*

Prelude arr for piano and organ duet by Gail Smith
“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

The original church bell is rung in memory of Rose Kingsley (1898-1992), who is honored in our Memorial Garden.

Opening Prayer

First Scripture Reading (p. 1451) 2 Timothy 4:6-8

“I’m already being poured out like a sacrifice to God, and the time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. At last the champion’s wreath that is awarded for righteousness is waiting for me. The Lord, who is the righteous judge, is going to give it to me on that day. He’s giving it not only to me but also to all those who have set their heart on waiting for his appearance.”

“I Danced in the Morning”

“I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone:

But I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he."

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

"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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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."

Son of Jack Bond and Melissa Pijanowski

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen."

Time with the Children

Gathering Song: "Jesus Loves Me"

"Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so."

Children up to 3 years old may go to the Nursery (Nursery Rm)

Children 3 years old through kindergarten are excused for Bible Bunch (Bible Bunch Rm)

Children in grades 1 through 4 are excused for Primary Sunday School (Sunday School Rm)

Children in grades 5 and up are excused for God Squad (Youth Rm)

Offering . . . *"Freely we have received, freely let us give."*



Scan the QR code using your phone to give to First Delray online.

Offertory Anthem

Tom Trenny

"Let Your Faith Be Stronger Than Your Fear"

Mario Arevalo, soloist

"In the deserts of your life, I'll not desert you.

I will make a way beside a flowing stream.

Through the valley, do not fear, for I am with you;

My rod and staff to comfort and redeem.

In the darkness of your life, I will not leave you.

In the shadow, I'm your light, your lamp, your sun.

I will be the star that shines above to guide you,

A light unto your path to lead you on.

Do not be afraid, I go before you. Do not be afraid, I am by your side.

Be still and know that I am with you.

Let your faith be stronger than your fear.

When you're weary, when you're faint, I will be with you.

I will raise you up to soar on eagle's wings.

I will be the joy that seeks you through your sorrow.

Unending hope my resurrection brings.

When the storms of life assail, I will uphold you.

I will strengthen you, I'll be the help you need.

Though the waters rage and foam, fear not, I'm with you,

I am the way, the truth, the life, indeed!

Do not be afraid, I go before you. Do not be afraid, I am by your side.

Be still and know I am with you.

Let your faith be stronger than your fear."

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen."

Ministry of the Church

Special Music

William Appling

"We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace"

“In the deserts of your life, I’ll not desert you.
I will make a way beside a flowing stream.
Through the valley, do not fear, for I am with you;
My rod and staff to comfort and redeem.
In the darkness of your life, I will not leave you.
In the shadow, I’m your light, your lamp, your sun.

I will be the star that shines above to guide you,
A light unto your path to lead you on.
Do not be afraid, I go before you. Do not be afraid, I am by your side.
Be still and know that I am with you.
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When you’re weary, when you’re faint, I will be with you.
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Though the waters rage and foam, fear not, I’m with you,
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Do not be afraid, I go before you. Do not be afraid, I am by your side.
Be still and know I am with you.
Let your faith be stronger than your fear.”

“I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.”

Sermon

Dr. Doug Hood

“When We Grow Exhausted”

***Closing Hymn No. 306**

Crusaders’ Hymn

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

“Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.”

*Benediction

Postlude

*The congregation is invited to stand, in mind or in body.

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Instructions on using our **Hearing Assistance System** to enhance your worship experience are available at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

For more information about **connecting with our church**, please complete the card in the pews.

Use your smartphone or tablet's camera to access the **QR Code** in the bulletin to make an online donation to the church.

The **flowers** that beautify the Chancel this morning are given to the glory of God.

Our **liturgist** this morning is Sonia Pozzi.

Today's **Fellowship by the Sea** is hosted by the Men's Fellowship. Come outside the lobby doors, enjoy a bite, and say hello after worship.

Please keep the **Middle School Youth**, Grace Joella, Madison Roach, Neo Singjaidee and Alana Therrell, and their advisors, Laura Joella, Kelly Roach, and Rachel Therrell, as well as the **High School Youth**, Elle Cesaria,

Jubilee Floreal, Lexi Olivia, Helena Scanlon, Nathan Singjaidee, and Nilla Singjaidee and their advisors, Grace Hood and Rachel Therrell, in your prayers as they travel to, participate in, and return from the **Montreat Youth Conference**.

Next Sunday is our **Pennies from Heaven Offering**. Your donation helps feed hungry people in our community.

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Sign your name and become part of the legacy of First Delray Beach. Visit the lobby to add your name to the **memory book** for our **100th Anniversary Time Capsule**.

What will your legacy be? Please remember the church in your will and beneficiary donations and become a **Legacy Partner**. Contact Colleen O'Rourke, Finance Manager, (colleen@firstdelray.com) for more information.

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As of July 14th, we have raised \$3,902,761.32 for our **Renew & Rejoice Capital Campaign**. More information is available in the lobby or on our Capital Campaign page on our website, where you can view completed and ongoing projects, watch the campaign video, and learn how you can help us renew our church facilities.

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Our First Families are **bowling** on **Sunday, August 2nd**, at 2 p.m. at AMF Boynton Beach. Sign up at the Welcome Center or on our website by Sunday, July 26th, to reserve a spot.

The Deacons invite you to a **Summer Picnic** on **Sunday, July 26th** following worship. This fellowship event is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to connect, share a meal, and enjoy time together. Please bring your favorite picnic dish to share with others. Reservations are encouraged to help with planning and may be made at the Welcome Center in the Lobby, on the website under upcoming events, or by calling the church office.

Stop by the Welcome Center to purchase **First Delray Concert Series tickets for the final concert of the 2026 concert season: "Lights, Camera, Music!"** on Sunday, **October 25th** at 4 p.m. [\$20 each].

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Our **Stephen Ministers** listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times. If you or a loved one needs a Stephen Minister, contact Laura DeBrita, Stephen Minister Coordinator, at 954-591-0439.

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Nursery Care for children up to age 3 is available in the Nursery on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

Bible Bunch for Children, ages 3 through kindergarten, meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Bible Bunch Room on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

Primary Sunday School for Children in 1st through 4th grade meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Sunday School Room on the first floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

God Squad for 5th grade and up meets **after the Time with the Children** in the Youth Room on the second floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

The **Youth Group** is on summer break, but has several activities planned over the next several months. Contact Rachel Therrell (racheltherrell@firstdelray.com) for more information.

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study meets Monday mornings at **10 a.m.** via Zoom. Contact Maria Graham (mmg2352@gmail.com) for more information.

Hosts Dolores McNaboe and Kathy Wilsher invite you to **Women's Lunch by the Sea at noon** on the **second Tuesday** of the month at Boheme Bistro. Contact Kathy Wilsher (561-252-0709) with any questions. The next lunch is on **Tuesday, August 11th**.

The **Holly House Workshops** meet on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings** at 9:30 a.m. in the Holly House.

Men's Fellowship meets **Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m.** at The Original Pancake House (1840 S. Federal Hwy) for a warm breakfast, meaningful conversation, and fellowship. Contact Fred McNaboe (561-350-4294) for more information.

Women's Discipleship Group next meets on **Thursday, July 30th, at 10 a.m.** in the Meeting Room on the second floor of the Center for Christian Studies. Contact Pamela Kent-Balasco (561-414-7552) for more information.

First Delray Ringers meets on **Thursdays at 6 p.m.** in the Bell Room on the second floor of the Center for Christian Studies.

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Read Dr. Doug Hood's weekly **Nurture Faith** meditation on our website under Resources.

Visit our website (www.firstdelray.com) for more information about our ministries.

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Spiritual Resources

*Simple practices. Deeper connection.
Stronger spirit.*

A MONTH of PRAYER
Five-Minute Meditations for a Deeper Experience of Prayer

W. Douglas Hood Jr.
Includes Daily Prayers by Leo S. Thorne
foreword by Greg Rapier afterword by Leo S. Thorne

PRAYER

Five-minute meditations for a deeper experience of prayer.

\$5

A MONTH of PRAYER and GRATITUDE
Five-Minute Meditations for a Deeper Experience of Gratitude

Includes Daily Prayers by Leo S. Thorne
Edited by W. Douglas Hood Jr. and Leo S. Thorne
foreword by Susan Sparks

PRAYER & GRATITUDE

Five-minute meditations for a deeper experience of gratitude.

\$10

A MONTH of COMFORT and WISDOM
five-minute meditations for fresh spiritual strength

W. Douglas Hood Jr.
Michael B. Brown
Includes Daily Prayers by Leo S. Thorne
foreword by Thomas K. Tewell

COMFORT & WISDOM

five-minute meditations for fresh spiritual strength.

\$10

There is a 3% service charge for credit card payments



*The following meditation was written by Dr. Michael B. Brown,
pastor of Blowing Rock Methodist Church in North Carolina.*

Surviving Grief

READ: Psalm 23:4 (Common English Bible)

“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil because you are with me.”

REFLECT:

“He was everything to me.” You hear her words choked out while she wipes away tears. “I am absolutely lost without him.” Of course she is. They were high school sweethearts or college classmates. They spent their entire adult lives together. Houses, children, a stint in the military, and a family business—all combined efforts. Always “we,” never just “me.” Perfect examples of the biblical words “a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh.” (Gen 2:24) Suddenly, half of her very self is gone. “I am absolutely lost without him.”

An aged woman sits at her kitchen table, her eyes clouded with grief. She has just returned from the memorial service for her son, a man who died in his late sixties. His mother is in her early nineties. But her words are the same that young mothers use when they lose a small child: “A parent should not outlive their children. It’s unnatural. How do I survive this?”

In his mid-50s, a man walks away from his business for the last time. He had invested everything in making it successful—his time, his energy, his long days and weeks and years, his financial resources. For a while, the business had carved out a meaningful niche and served the needs of a loyal clientele. But a large chain store opened nearby, selling the same goods at reduced prices. Online competition made shopping easier and more economical. COVID changed the marketplace. At last, the ice was too thin, and the business he loved so much went under. “I have bills to pay and responsibilities to meet,” he says. “I’m too young not to work, but too old, tired, and heartbroken to start over.”

“For years I hated my parents,” a student confesses, “because dad changed jobs at the close of my junior year in high school. We moved to a town where I knew nobody and felt like a nobody. I thought he could have said no to the job offer. I thought my mom should have intervened. Instead, I walked away from everything and everyone that I had cherished my entire life.”

All those are voices of grief. You know the stories. Perhaps you have lived the stories. Loss is one of life's inescapable realities. And the pain that follows is severe and often indescribable. After the losses he experienced, Job asserted that it would have been better for him not to have been born at all. (Job 10:19) Those who suffer deep losses know what Job was talking about.

So, what is the response of faith when grief has you in its cold grip? David's words in Psalm 23:4 say it well: "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil because you are with me." That single verse provides two suggestions for coping with and resolving grief.

[1] "Even though I walk *through* . . ." We are not abandoned in the valley of the shadow, to dwell and hurt there forever. Grief is for a season, but not for a lifetime. We are designed eventually to make it *through*. The journey may be long and difficult, but grief is not a permanent parking place. *Through*.

[2] "You are *with* me . . ." The journey of grief is not one we have to make alone. That was the final promise Jesus made to his disciples before ascending into heaven. "Look, I myself will be with you every day . . ." (Matt 28:20) Wherever we go, whatever we face, however burdened we may feel, we are not condemned to carry life's weight alone. Jesus did not promise to magically make all our pains and tears vanish. But he did

promise to journey beside us “through the darkest valley” until the sunlight shines again. *With.*

Grief is an undeniable reality of living and loving. Thankfully, an undeniable reality of faith is that Christ will carry us *through* grief and will be *with* us every step along the way. In his caring presence, we discover sufficient strength to survive and sufficient power to move forward.

RESPOND:

1. How has this scripture or meditation spoken to you? **Pray:** *“What would you have me hear, O Lord?”*
2. What one specific act do you intend to take, an attitude to change, a person to see, or prayer to pray? **Pray:** *“What would you have me do, O Lord?”*