

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

April 9, 2017

Eleven O'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude "Crown Imperial" William Walton

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

The Choral Introit "Sing, Sing to the King" Dan R. Edwards
The Music Makers and Young Musicians Choirs
Anna Moxley, pianist

The Call to Worship (responsive) Psalm 118

LEADER: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

PEOPLE: **This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

LEADER: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PEOPLE: **Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!**

LEADER: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is God, and has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

LEADER: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

PEOPLE: **O give thanks to the Lord, who is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The Invocation Lin Carter

*The Hymn of Praise, 203 ELLACOMBE
"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)¹

(text omitted)

The Silent Confession

The Words of Assurance

The Act of Praise, 472 "Grace Greater than Our Sin" MOODY
(The congregation is invited to sing the refrain only of Hymn 472.)

The Greeting of Worshipers

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Gracious and loving God, you know us through and through. Speak to us in the Word read and proclaimed, that in the shelter of your love we may find the courage to face the parched places in our lives and find life in your spring of living water. Amen.

The Hebrew Bible Isaiah 50:4-9a (p. 594)
LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament Philippians 2:5-11 (p. 954)
LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Gospel Matthew 21:1-11 (p. 802)
LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.
PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*The Hymn of Devotion, 204 ST. THEODULPH
"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

The Sermon "From Blame to Blessing" Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Litany of Response (responsive)²

(text omitted)

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

*The Hymn of Discipleship, 213 HAMBURG
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*The Offertory Prayer Randy Tucker

The Offertory Anthem "My Song is Love Unknown" Edwin T. Childs
(The anthem text may be found at Hymn 202.)

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings OLD HUNDREDTH
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people."

*The Postlude "Imperial March" Edward Elgar

*The congregation may stand.

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²From *Litanies and Other Prayers for the Common Lectionary: Year A*, by Everett Tilson and Phyllis Cole. Copyright © 1989 by Abingdon Press. Reprinted by permission.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Colonel and Mrs. William T. Joyner by their family.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS are Jed and Macon David.

DEACON ON CALL is Randy Tucker. A life-long member and first-term deacon, Randy serves on the Baptism Committee and is a member of the Unity Class. He and his wife Zoe have three adult children.

SYMPATHY to **Lindsey Davis** on the April 3 death of her brother, Nick Rierson of MD.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP: Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. There is tension between the joy of this day and the shadow that is cast upon it by the cross that is sure to come. Thus, we begin with children singing "Sing, Sing to the King" and all of us waving palms, but we consider prayerfully Jesus' courageous decision to enter Jerusalem at such a volatile time, and end by singing "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and hearing a choral setting of "My Song Is Love Unknown." The sermon is a first-person reflection by one of the characters in the story often blamed for all that goes wrong. He invites us to reconsider not only whom to blame, but whether placing blame serves any noble purpose. We carry these questions with us throughout this week, trusting that the God who brings life out of death will transform our obsession with blame into an experience of blessing.

THOSE WHO ARE VISITING are invited to the Gathering Room after worship to receive information about the church. Use the door to the left of the pulpit; church members will greet you.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Gathering Room. An usher can provide a device for you.

APRIL MISSION PROJECT: We are collecting disposable diapers (sizes newborn through size 6) as well as pull ups and diaper wipes (sensitive skin type preferred) for the Clothing Ministry. Your donation may be placed in the marked drawer in the cabinet located in the Lewis Lobby through April 30. If you are unable to deliver your donation to the church, please contact Catharine Dudeck (919-608-4353) to arrange for pick up.

CENTERPOINT: There will be no evening meal or activities this Wednesday, April 12.

THE CLOTHING MINISTRY will be closed on Wednesday, April 12, and Thursday, April 13, in accordance with our policy to close when Wake County Schools are closed.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE will be held on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Good Friday, April 14.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE will be held on Sunday, April 16, at 6:30 a.m. at the eastern portico of the Capitol. Join the downtown Raleigh community as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

FREE YOGA CLASS will be offered at FBC on Thursdays, April 20 through May 25, from noon until 1:00 p.m. The 6-week class, led by certified yoga instructors, is open to the community. Please bring your mat and water bottle and a friend.

5TH SUNDAY VESPERS SERVICE will be held on April 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER: A favorite cookbook, published by youth parents in 1997, has been reprinted and will be available for purchase on Wednesdays and Sundays in the Lewis Building Lobby. All proceeds will benefit the Day Mission Fund.

Calendar Highlights

April 9-16, 2017

- Sun, April 9 *Palm Sunday*
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship (S)
Japanese Worship (227)
- Tues, April 11
10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (CR)
10:30 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
6:00 Theology on Tap (Raleigh Times)
- Wed, April 12
10:00 Clothing Ministry **closed**
- Thu, April 13
7:00 Band of Brothers (CR)
10:00 Thirty-Niners (ArtSpace)
11:00 Library Committee (L)
1:00 Clothing Ministry **closed**
7:00 Maundy Thursday service (S)
- Fri, April 14 *Good Friday*
Office **closed**
- Sun, April 16 *Easter*
6:30 Sunrise Service (Capitol)
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship (S)
Japanese Worship (227)



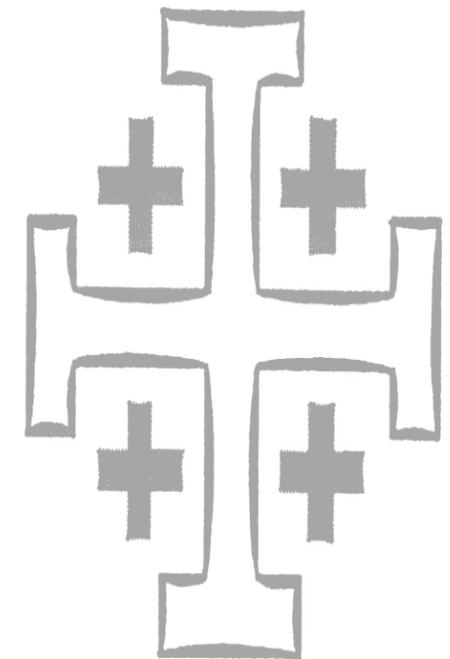
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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Lin Carter, Christian Education/Outreach Donna G. Jolly, Organist
Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor Lynn Lingafelt, Children
Trey Davis, Youth/College Daniel Ray, Youth/College Assistant
J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus Mary Alice Seals, Music/Senior Adults
Wayne Hager, Church Administrator

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



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