

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2017

Eleven O'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude "Fantasy on the Hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy*" Piet Post

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 Call to Worship (responsive) from Psalm 65

LEADER: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;

PEOPLE: **the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.**

LEADER: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

PEOPLE: **You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

LEADER: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

PEOPLE: **the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

The Invocation Lynn Lingafelt

*The Hymn of Praise, 52 ELLACOMBE
"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

The Greeting of Worshipers

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible Isaiah 55:10-13 (p. 598)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament Romans 8:1-11 (p. 918)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (p. 794)

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*The Hymn of Devotion, 379 AR HYD Y NOS
"For the Fruit of All Creation"

The Sermon Christopher Chapman
"In Defense of the Seemingly Reckless Sower"

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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, 574 CANONBURY
"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

*The Offertory Prayer John W. Smith

The Offertory Anthem arr. K. Lee Scott
"Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me"†

(text omitted)

*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 "Postlude on a Welsh Hymn" Ronald R. Williams

*The congregation may stand.

†Words: Thomas T. Lynch, alt. and K. Lee Scott, © 1984 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708116.

MANY THANKS to Paul Smith for conducting the choir today in the absence of Mary Alice Seals.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS are Jeremy Dare and Hannah Hoover.

DEACON ON CALL is John W. Smith. A 6-year member and first-term deacon, John serves on the Pulpit Supply Committee, the Personnel Committee, and the Sunday Welcome Committee. He is a member of the Pathfinders Class. John is married to Harriet Smith.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given by Shirley and John Hobson and Lauren, Nick and Caroline Bradley in honor of Mrs. Polly Wilkins Garrard.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP: Today is the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time. We wear green stoles throughout this season because green is a symbol of growth and the focus in Ordinary Time is upon growth in general, but especially growth in and of the church. This year we continue to wear new stoles made by church members from material contributed by church members. These stoles offer a sign of the rich diversity of this community of faith, a gift that enhances any growth we experience.

The theme for today grows out of the reading from Matthew, the parable of the sower. Like many parables Jesus tells, this parable is told in the context of resistance to Jesus' ministry. He not only shares the good news that God's reign is near, he brings this reign near. Yet, many refuse to accept him and his message. The problem is not with Jesus or his message, but with those who hear. In the metaphorical world of the parable, the seed and the sower are beyond reproach. The soil of the listeners' hearts, however, is not adequately prepared. The sermon explores the implications of this parable for our proclamation and hearing today, as we sing hymns that honor the God who gives all growth, hear an anthem that lifts up our need for the Spirit to dwell within us, and offer prayers for our church and the world around us. We respond to our hearing of God's word, which the prophet Isaiah says will not return empty, with the giving of gifts and the dedication of our lives. We are sent forth to live like the sower in Jesus' parable, recklessly sowing seeds of love and kindness wherever we go.

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.

HECK-JONES OFFERING: As of July 9, we have received \$9,668 towards our goal of \$10,000.

JULY MISSION PROJECT: We're collecting school supplies this month. A list of suggested items may be found in SS boxes and at www.fbcraleigh.org. Pencils and crayons will be saved for Toy Joy; all other items will be included in backpacks for Clothing Ministry clients. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the Lewis Building Lobby. Contact Anne Cooke (cooke76@aol.com).

COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER: Sales of our reprint of the 1997 *First Baptist Cooks* are underway and it's time to collect recipes for the 20th anniversary FBC cookbook. Submit recipes in typical format: ingredients, mixing instructions and baking instructions to Susan Kimball (susanekimball@gmail.com) by August 1. Please feel free to add a brief comment about your recipe and how it is special to you and your family.

FIFTH SUNDAY VESPERS SERVICE will be held on July 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by an ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall.

GIVING KIOSK: The credit/debit card kiosk is now available by the elevator on the second floor of the Lewis Building on Sunday mornings and in the office during the week. You will be able to give to the general offering, one of our three mission offerings, or the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund at any time. For information, contact Wayne Hager (whager@fbcraleigh.org or 919-832-4485, ext. 207).

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: To reduce expenses and save our environment, we are adjusting our 2018 boxed offering envelope order. If you will be giving to the general offering online or by auto draft in 2018 and need only special offering envelopes or if you wish to receive a box containing only 12 general offering envelopes plus special offering envelopes, please contact Wayne Hager (whager@fbcraleigh.org or 919-832-4485, ext. 207).

CHURCH SOFTBALL fall team is being considered. Games are played Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from late August into October. Contact Lin Carter (lcarter@fbcraleigh.org).

CLOTHING MINISTRY is in need of men's short-sleeve shirts and t-shirts, all sizes.

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING TRIP: On Monday, August 21, we are planning an all-day trip to South Carolina to view a rare full solar eclipse. Save the date and look for details soon.

Calendar Highlights July 16 ☼ 23

Sun, July 16

- 9:00 Discipleship Committee (CR)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (S)
Japanese Worship (227)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Blue Room)

Tues, July 18

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (CR)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Raleigh Times)

Wed, July 19

- 10:00 HS Bible Study (Blue Room)
Clothing Ministry open
- 5:45 ITC Board (108)

Thu, July 20

- 11:00 Library Committee (L)
- 1:00 Clothing Ministry open

Sun, July 23

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (S)
Japanese Worship (227)
- 12:15 Personnel Committee (CR)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Blue Room)



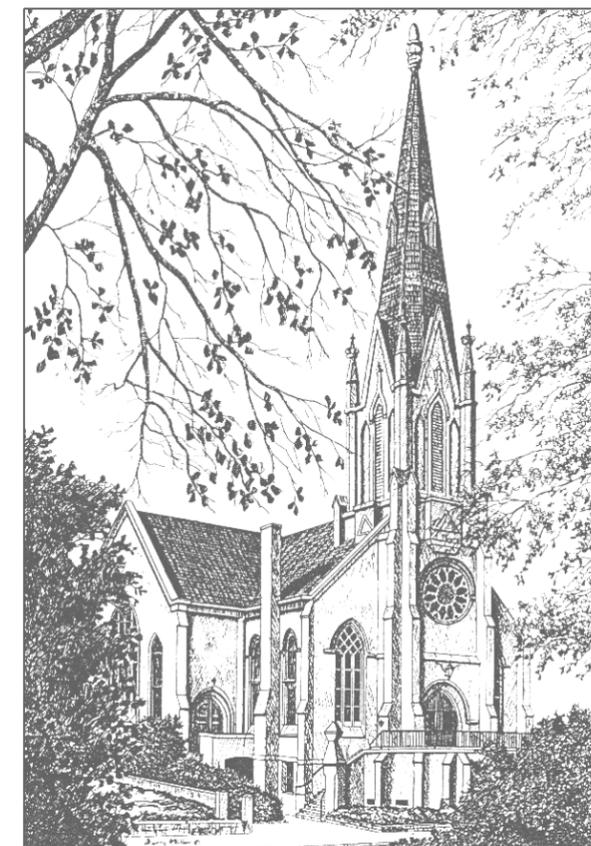
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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| Lin Carter, Christian Education/Outreach | Donna G. Jolly, Organist |
| Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor | Lynn Lingafelt, Children |
| Trey Davis, Youth/College | Daniel Ray, Youth/College Assistant |
| J. Daniel 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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