

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2020 Eleven o'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude "Prelude and Fugue in D Minor" JS Bach
Eddie Abernathy, guest organist

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) Psalm 121

LEADER: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

PEOPLE: **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

LEADER: The Lord will not let your foot be moved; the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

PEOPLE: **The One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

LEADER: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

PEOPLE: **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

LEADER: The Lord will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life.

PEOPLE: **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

The Invocation Trey Davis

*The Hymn of Praise, 78 ST. ANNE
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (responsive)†

(text omitted)

The Silent Confession

The Words of Assurance (responsive) John 3:16–17

LEADER: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

PEOPLE: **Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."**

The Act of Praise, 507 "I Then Shall Live" FINLANDIA
(The congregation is invited to sing the first stanza of Hymn 507.)

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 Genesis 12:1–4a (p. 8)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 (p. 916)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Gospel John 3:1–17 (p. 863)

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 486 WELLESLEY
"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

The Sermon Christopher Chapman
"Nicodemus: Unbeliever, Seeker or Genuine Believer"

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Prayer of Response, 544 (unison)

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, 700 SYMPHONY
"We Are God's People"

*The Offertory Prayer Cara Lynn Vogel

The Offertory Anthem John Stainer
"God So Loved the World"

*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 (responsive) Church Covenant

*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 "Processional" William Matthias

*The congregation may stand.

†The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts, Lectionary Aids for 2019-2020, Year A Vol 53.1*; Editor: Kimberly Bracken Long; Copyright © 2019 by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church USA.

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on the way to the cross. We continue with times of confession, hymns that point to the nature of discipleship, and an anthem that paints a majestic picture of God's redemptive love. With the verses from John, we begin a series of lengthy Gospel readings that we will hear over the course of several weeks. Each reading, read by multiple voices, tells a story about a significant interaction with Jesus. Each reading creates space for us to reflect upon our interactions with Jesus. Today's sermon provides a first-person exploration of the story about Nicodemus who may be more like us than we think.

Because today is also our church's 208th anniversary (FBC Raleigh was founded on March 8, 1812), we conclude worship with a responsive reading of our Church Covenant trusting that the same God who enriched our past will guide our future.

We are grateful for the musical leadership today of Eddie Abernathy, our guest organist, and Paul Smith, our guest conductor.

The Deacon on Call is Cara Lynn Vogel. A 31-year member, Cara Lynn serves on the Denominational Relations Committee and is a member of The Journey Sunday School Class. She and her husband, Jamie have one young son, Jesse.

Philip Lingafelt and Caleb Petty are taking part in the Gospel reading today.

The Sanctuary flowers today are given in memory of Jimmy and Louise Rollins and Matt and Ann Lojko by Tom and Ann Rollins.

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.

Sympathy to **Michael Hawks** on the March 2 death of his mother, **Sarah Hawks**.

Be in prayer for the 22 youth choir members and chaperones returning today from the Festival by the Sea.

Do More, Serve More, Church More Stewardship Campaign: As of March 5, we have received 178 pledges totaling \$1,233,137. Help us to meet our budget goal by returning your pledge card to the church office (you may also pledge online at: <https://fbcraleigh.org/2020-stewardship-emphasis/>).

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. We have received \$11,796 toward our goal of \$20,000.

Easter gifts in honor or memory of a loved one are being received through Wednesday, April 1. With your gift of \$10 or more, an acknowledgement will be printed in an insert on Easter. Use the form in Sunday School boxes or at www.fbcraleigh.org/eastergifts.

Centerpoint, Wednesday, March 11:

- Mind Elective—Tim Brock will be leading a study of Luke 15:11-32, The Parable of the Prodigal Son, and we will interact with the text using a method called psychological biblical criticism.
- Body Elective—We will be taking a trip to Urban Ministries to learn more about how they are serving our local community. The bus will leave the church at 6:35 p.m.

Menu for March 11: grilled chicken, vegetable medley, pasta. Non-meat: mock chicken. Kids: pizza.

Join us on Sunday, March 15, immediately following worship, for the Pinewood Derby races in the Fellowship Hall. This race is open to anyone with an old pinewood car and will happen after our current RAs race their newly made cars. We'll also have a hot dog lunch for \$5 per person, with a family max of \$10. To sign-up for the derby and lunch, email Lynn Lingafelt (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org) **today**.

Volunteers are needed to help host Family Promise families March 15–22. We will have up to 5 families that week and there are many ways you can help them have a safe and comfortable stay with us! Read the article in the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information and email Holly Ivel (hi2810@bellsouth.net) with your interest.

The “What Color Is in Your Wallet?” youth fundraiser is going on now through March 15. Donate money in honor of your favorite ACC team or a famous past player! In the end your money goes to support our youth and missions so really, all colors are winning colors! Look for the display in the Lewis Building lobby or read the *Rose Window Weekly* for details.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC will have its annual gathering at Trinity Baptist Church, Raleigh, from March 19–21. Come for worship and workshops exploring the theme of “Embracing Kingdom Community,” and enjoy supper catered by *And Also With 'Cue*. Read more details in the *Rose Window Weekly* and register at www.cbfncc.org.

The 2020 growing season is quickly approaching, and we're looking for volunteers (all ages and experience levels) to participate in Saturday morning workdays at the Cedar Point Apartments community garden! Read more about this in *Rose Window Weekly* and email Libby Barnes (ebarnes0627@gmail.com) if you'd like to help.

This month we will support “Feed the Pack,” which is a food pantry at NC State that provides food for students, faculty, and staff. While they accept most any non-perishable items, we will concentrate on these needed breakfast items: cereal, oatmeal, Pop Tarts, and granola. You may place your donations in the marked drawer in the Lewis Building cabinet anytime in March.

Calendar Highlights March 8–15, 2020

Sun, Mar 8	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service (S) Japanese Worship (227)
Mon, Mar 9	10:00	Clothing Ministry Open
	11:00	Sisters in Grace (CR)
	6:15	Finance Committee Meeting (CR)
Tues, Mar 10	10:00	Ministerial Staff Meeting (CR)
	10:30	WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
	5:00	Church Council Meeting (CR)
	6:00	Theology on Tap (Raleigh Times)
	6:30	HS Bible Study (Helms' Home)
Wed, Mar 11	10:00	Clothing Ministry Committee Meeting (CR)
	4:15	Works in Progress (P)
	5:30	Children's Missions Evening Bells (307) Backpack Buddies (301)
	5:45	Meal Served (FH)
	6:30	Prayer and Announcements (FH)
	6:45	Centerpoint Adult Programming (FH) Children's Music
	7:30	Choir Rehearsal (310)
Thurs, Mar 12	7:00	Band of Brothers (CR)
	10:30	Thirty-Niners (FH)
	12:30	Library Committee (Library)
Fri, Mar 13	10:00	Japanese-American Cultural Exchange (301)
Sun, Mar 15	9:00	Nominating Committee Meeting (CR)
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service (S) Japanese Worship (227)
	12:00	RA Car Race (FH)
	4:00	Youth Bells (307)
	5:00	Youth Choir (310)
	6:00	Youth Group (FH and Blue Room)

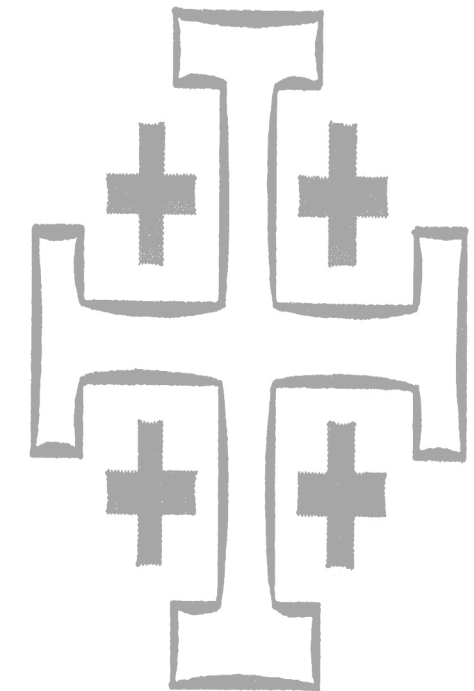
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
 Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
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 (919) 832-4485 Fax: (919) 832-6726 www.fbcraleigh.org

Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor	Lynn Lingafelt, Children
Trey Davis, Associate Pastor	Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor
J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus	Leah Anderson Reed, Community
Wayne Hager, Church Administrator	Mary Alice Seals, Music/Senior Adults

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 8, 2020