

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 10, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, a season in which we celebrate the good news of resurrection and reflect upon its meaning for us. The readings from Acts and 1 Peter describe challenges new believers face even after Jesus' resurrection, while in the reading from John 14, right before his death and resurrection, Jesus seeks to prepare his first followers for life without his physical presence. The texts all remind us that while we follow a Risen Christ, we still live in an in-between time when our hope for the future and the companionship of God sustain us through many challenges. We offer prayers for our capacity to trust God in this time of many challenges related to COVID-19, the hymn and handbell pieces express our belief that God is worthy of our trust, and the sermon explores Jesus' words of assurance as well as the context that inspires them. As was the case for the first disciples, our hearts are troubled, and it is helpful to acknowledge this reality, but the assurance Jesus offered them is available to us too. For this good news, we give thanks and praise.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"The Church's One Foundation"
Mary Alice Seals, piano

arr. Anna Laura Page

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 31:1-4

LEADER: In you, O God, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;

PEOPLE: **in your righteousness deliver me.**

LEADER: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

PEOPLE: **Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

LEADER: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

PEOPLE: **take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed



If you will trust in God to guide you and place your
What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less
In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure, in cheer - ful
Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your
con - fi - dence in him, you'll find him al - ways there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er your Fa - ther's
ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -
side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent. Doubt not your
serv - ing, you'll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er
trust God's change - less love build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - ery loss.
in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.
will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)²

Trey Davis

Free our troubled hearts, O God, and reveal to us your marvelous light. Bring us to the place where we can know your Son and your love that dwells in him. Guide us by your truth and lead us to life. In the name of Jesus who glorifies you. Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 7:55–60

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Musical Meditation

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"
Emma Tyndall and Sabrina Tyndall, handbells

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

The Morning Prayer

Lynn Lingafelt

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Acknowledging our Troubled Hearts and Finding Something to Calm Them”

The Prayer of Response (responsive)²

LEADER: Jesus, Savior, you call us to be your disciples; you nurture and shape us into your church, growing and loving, acting always on your behalf.

PEOPLE: **You are the vine; we are the branches.**

LEADER: Jesus, joy of heaven who came to earth, live in us; make us your home.

PEOPLE: **Apart from you we can do nothing.**

LEADER: Show us how to lose our old life for your sake and gain, by your grace, the life you came to give.

PEOPLE: **Apart from you we wither like a branch cut off from the vine.**

LEADER: Jesus, Son of God, sender of the Holy Spirit, encourage us when we hesitate; show us how to live in your household.

PEOPLE: **Teach us to abide in you as you abide in us.**

LEADER: Your commandments are new and good; you ask us to love one another as you have loved us.

PEOPLE: **Grant us grace to keep your commandments.**

LEADER: You ask us to take up our cross and follow you.

PEOPLE: **Grant us grace to become your disciples.**

LEADER: You invite us to be known by the fruit we bear.

PEOPLE: **Grant us grace to bear much fruit for the glory of God.**

LEADER: You have promised us rooms in your Father’s house, a new heaven and a new earth where God wipes away all tears, where mourning and crying and pain will be no more, where death will be no more: Help us to know you and know the One who sent you that we may abide in you and live now as your new creation.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God for Jesus Christ, our way, our truth, our life. May the name of Jesus Christ be forever praised. Amen.**

The Musical Response

“How Firm a Foundation”
Emma Tyndall and Sabrina Tyndall, handbells

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
Mary Alice Seals, piano

arr. Anna Laura Page

¹ The tune for today’s hymn is in the Public Domain as are the words for stanzas one, three, and four. The words for stanza two are © 1978, Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

²From *Season of Ash and Fire, Prayers and Liturgies for Lent and Easter*, by Blair Gilmore Meeks, © 2003 Abingdon Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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Sympathy to the family of **Hazel Foster**, who died Thursday, May 7.

All church activities are cancelled until further notice.