

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 24, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventh Sunday of Easter but also the Sunday closest to the Ascension of the Lord (May 21 this year). The texts are taken from this latter emphasis which shapes many elements of this service. The sermon, which is rooted in the reading from Acts 1, examines the first disciples' challenge of living in a time with many unanswered questions right after Jesus' resurrection and just before his ascension. As their challenges are like ours right now in many ways, the guidance they received offers a way forward for us — the way of placing our trust in God and losing ourselves in service to others. "Be still, my soul!" the text of the solo urges, "The Lord is on your side: bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to order and provide; in every change he faithfully will remain." That is our confidence and trust.

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 47

LEADER: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

PEOPLE: **For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great ruler over all the earth.**

LEADER: God subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

PEOPLE: **The Lord chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

LEADER: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

PEOPLE: **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our Sovereign, sing praises.**

LEADER: For God is the ruler of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

PEOPLE: **God is sovereign over the nations; God sits on a holy throne.**

LEADER: The leaders of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

PEOPLE: **For the shields of the earth belong to God who is highly exalted.**

The Invocation

Trey Davis

1. Re - joyce, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
 2. The Lord the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
 3. His king - dom can - not fall, he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
 4. Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and

joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more: lift up your
 he had purged our stains he took his seat a - bowe: lift up your
 keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given: lift up your
 take his serv - ants up to their e - ter - nal home. Lift up your

heart, lift up your voice! Re - joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!
 heart, lift up your voice! Re - joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!
 heart, lift up your voice! Re - joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!
 heart, lift up your voice! Re - joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.
 MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770

DARWALL
 6.6.6.6.4.4.8.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison) †

Lynn Lingafelt

Keep us faithful to your word, O God; give us grace to show our love for you. Make your home with us, and keep us from fear; open us to receive your Spirit, the One who will teach us everything in remembrance of Jesus, risen and ascended. Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 1:1–14

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

The Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“How to Live in a Time When There Is So Much We Just Don’t Know”

The Musical Response

“Be Still, My Soul”
Tonya Carter, soprano

arr. Craig Courtney

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

†From *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.

The tune and text to “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” are in the public domain.

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The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. As of May 19, we have received \$1,460 toward our goal of \$10,000.

All church activities are cancelled until further notice.