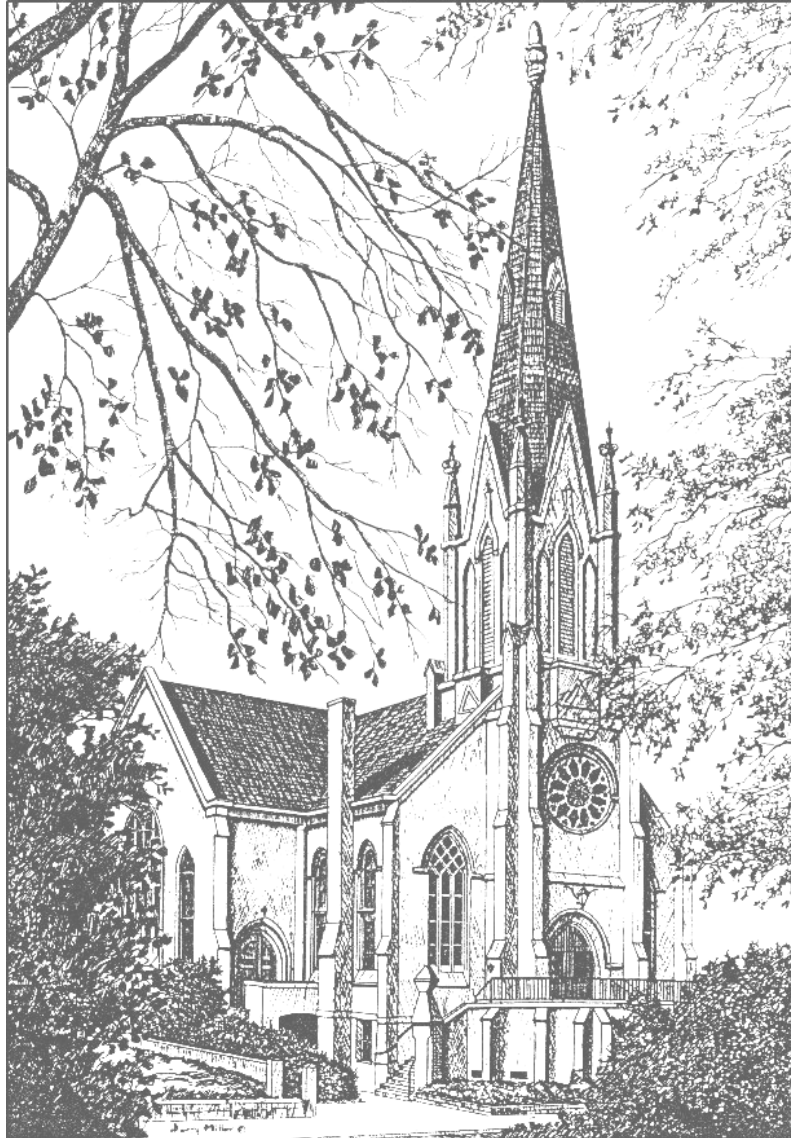


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 21, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 21, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian Year. We continue with readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew, but focus today on the reading from Genesis. It is a familiar story that begins with the troublesome details of Abraham and Sarah casting out Hagar and Ishmael, but ends with the hopeful acts of God rescuing the outcasts and making them a great promise. While the story provides an example of how resilient oppressed people can be and how God can use flawed people, it mostly demonstrates God's loving concern for all people — those who think of themselves as being chosen and those who are presumed not to be chosen. Thus, we sing hymns which proclaim God's all-embracing love, offer prayers of thanks for this love, and devote our lives to sharing love with others.

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 86

LEADER: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

PEOPLE: **Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.**

LEADER: You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

PEOPLE: **Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

LEADER: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

PEOPLE: **For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.**

LEADER: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

PEOPLE: **I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.**

The Invocation

Trey Davis

1 God is love, let heav'n a - dore him; God is love, let
 2 God is love; and love en - folds us, all the world in
 3 God is love; and though with blind - ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him and ex -
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us, ev - 'ry
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness guides us

alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 child of ev - 'ry race. And when hu - man hearts are
 through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heav'n's a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain: God is love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is love, e - ter - nal love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 21:8–21

Lynn Lingafelt

⁸The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.”

¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 6:1–11

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Musical Meditation

“Children of the Heavenly Father”²
Becky Mercer, flute; Mary Alice Seals, piano

arr. Dan Forrest

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

The Morning Prayer

Leah Reed

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

Matthew 10:24–39

²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one's foes will be members of one's own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

“A Counternarrative to the Narrative of Chosenness” Christopher Chapman

Hymn of Response

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

WELLESLEY

(text omitted)

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”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Mary Alice Seals, piano

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² Words: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1855, translated by Ernest W. Olson © 1925, 1953 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

The tune and text of “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” are in the public domain.

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Our acolytes today are Lucy and Ryan Willis.

The flowers today are given to honor the 60th wedding anniversary of Wayne and Anita Bare on June 25. The flowers were given by their children.

Sympathy to **Jeanie Scott** on the death of her husband **Bob Scott** on Thursday, June 18.

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 June 15, we have received \$2,595 toward our goal of \$10,000.

VBS is going virtual this summer! Join us July 26–30, 6–8 p.m., via ZOOM or MEET platforms. Register now for great Bible study and really cool electives — the deadline is June 28. Find the registration link in the *Rose Window Weekly* or contact Lynn (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org).

There will be a virtual Church Conference via Zoom on Sunday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m. The link will be sent out by email as well as being included in the *Rose Window Weekly* the Tuesday before the meeting. Those needing assistance should contact Deborah Mastrodonato (dmast@fbcraleigh.org). For more information, see the last issue of *Rose Window Weekly*.

All in-person church activities are cancelled until further notice.