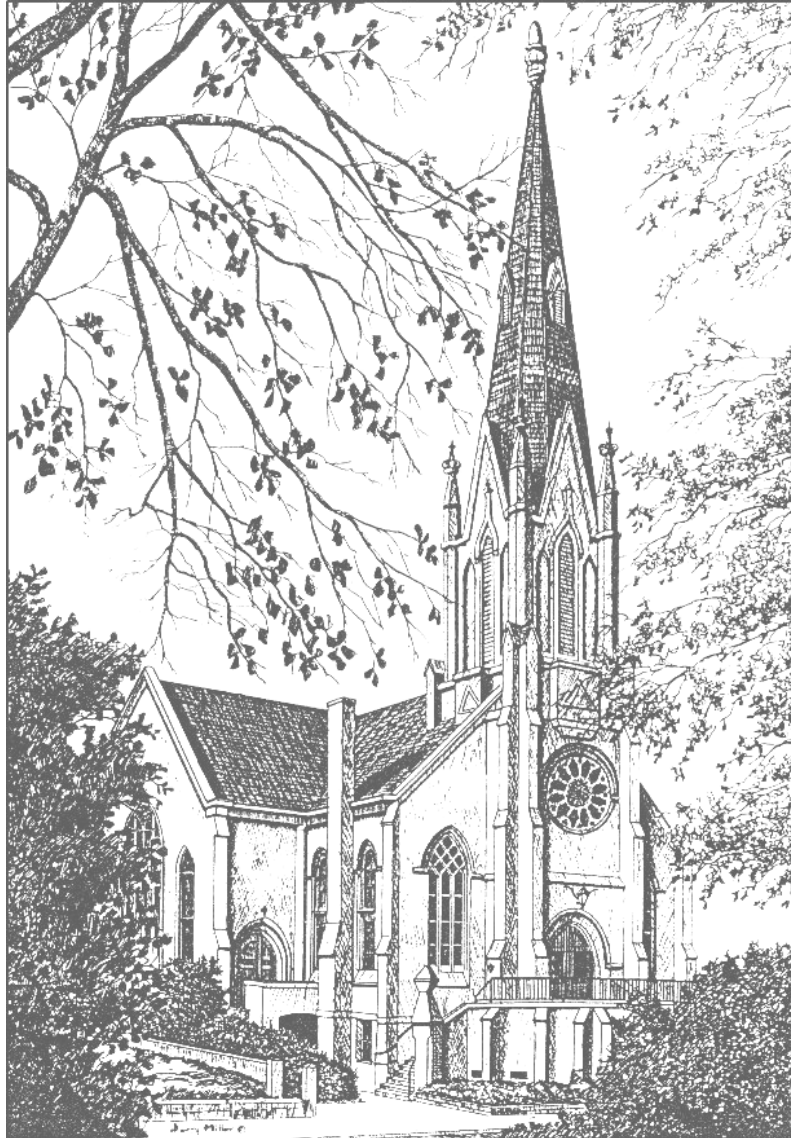


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 12, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: We continue to worship this summer during the liturgical season of ordinary time. Our worship today invites us to contemplate the many different ways we find meaning, specifically the ways that different images, sounds, or stories convey God to us. We experience God through the beauty of music, listening to different instruments than what we normally experience in worship but hoping for a sacred encounter in the midst of that newness. We look for God in the familiar surroundings and symbols of our church, homes, and world while noticing these surroundings in new and different ways and appreciating them with greater nuance. And we seek God in stories from the earliest parts of our religious history, acknowledging their longstanding impact in our lives while also hoping for new revelations, new insights, and new applications for these familiar narratives. The communication from song, image, and story invites us to reach out to God in manifold ways. As worshipers who are pursuing God, we hope that we can grasp as many of these as possible, and that we will respond to what we intuit in ways that are pleasing to God.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“*Allegro* from Violin Sonata in C Minor”
Michael Stephenson, saxophone; Mark Hopper, piano

J. S. Bach

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 119

LEADER: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

PEOPLE: **I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.**

LEADER: I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

PEOPLE: **Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.**

LEADER: I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

PEOPLE: **The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.**

LEADER: Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

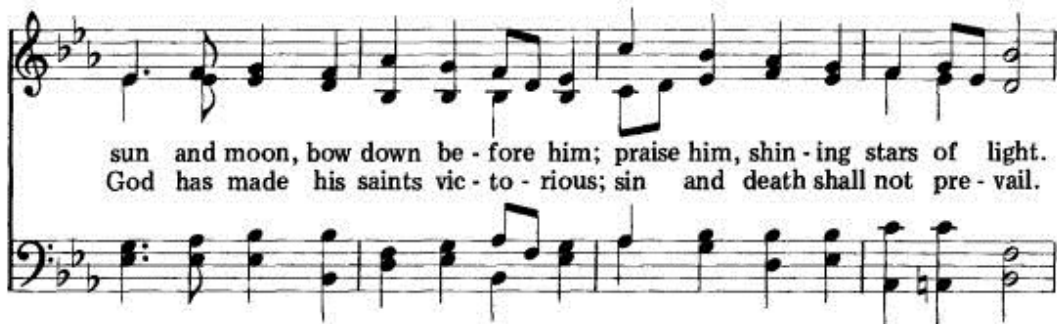
PEOPLE: **I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

The Invocation

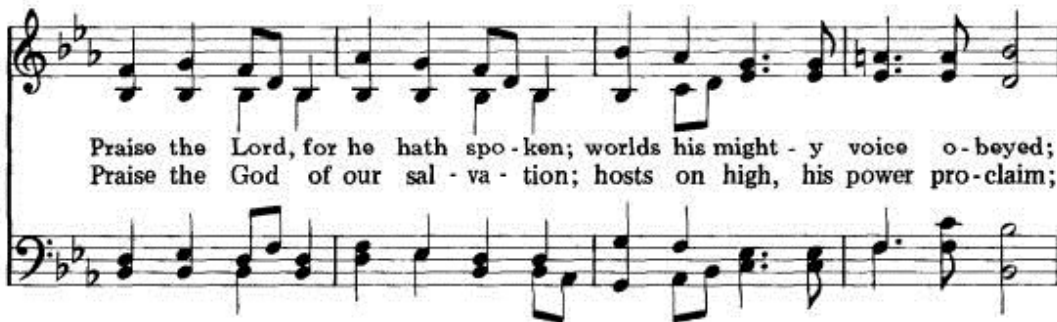
Lynn Lingafelt



1. Praise the Lord! O heavens, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels in the height;
2. Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail;



sun and moon, bow down be - fore him; praise him, shin - ing stars of light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he hath spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his power pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heaven and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name.

WORDS: *The Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796, alt.; para. of Psalm 148
MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

AUSTRIAN HYMN
8.7.8.7.D.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 25:19–34

Mary Alice Seals

¹⁹These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." ²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³²Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 8:1–11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

"A Sign of the Times"

Trey Davis

The Musical Reflection

"The Water Is Wide" (O WALY WALY)
 Michael Stephenson, saxophone; Mark Hopper, piano

arr. Daniel Kallman

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

The tune and text of “Praise the Lord! O Heavens Adore Him” are in the public domain.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Our acolytes today are Elizabeth and Catherine Yelverton.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the July 6 birth of Savannah Claire Bradley, daughter of **Nick and Lauren**, sister of Caroline, and granddaughter of **John and Shirley Hobson**.

We are grateful for the offerings of our musical guests today. Michael Stephenson is Coordinator of Music & Drama at Pitt Community College and co-founded the Music Academy of Eastern Carolina with his wife, Cheryl. Mark Hopper is Minister of Music and Organist at The First Baptist Church of Henderson. Mark and Michael have been performing together since 2008.

Sympathy to the family of **Jean Finch**, who died Monday, July 6.

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 July 7, we have received \$4,845 toward our goal of \$10,000.

Due to staff shortages at the Post Office which is holding our mail for pick up, we may experience delays in receiving mail for the next few weeks. Please be aware that it might take a bit longer to receive any mailed correspondence or donations during this time.