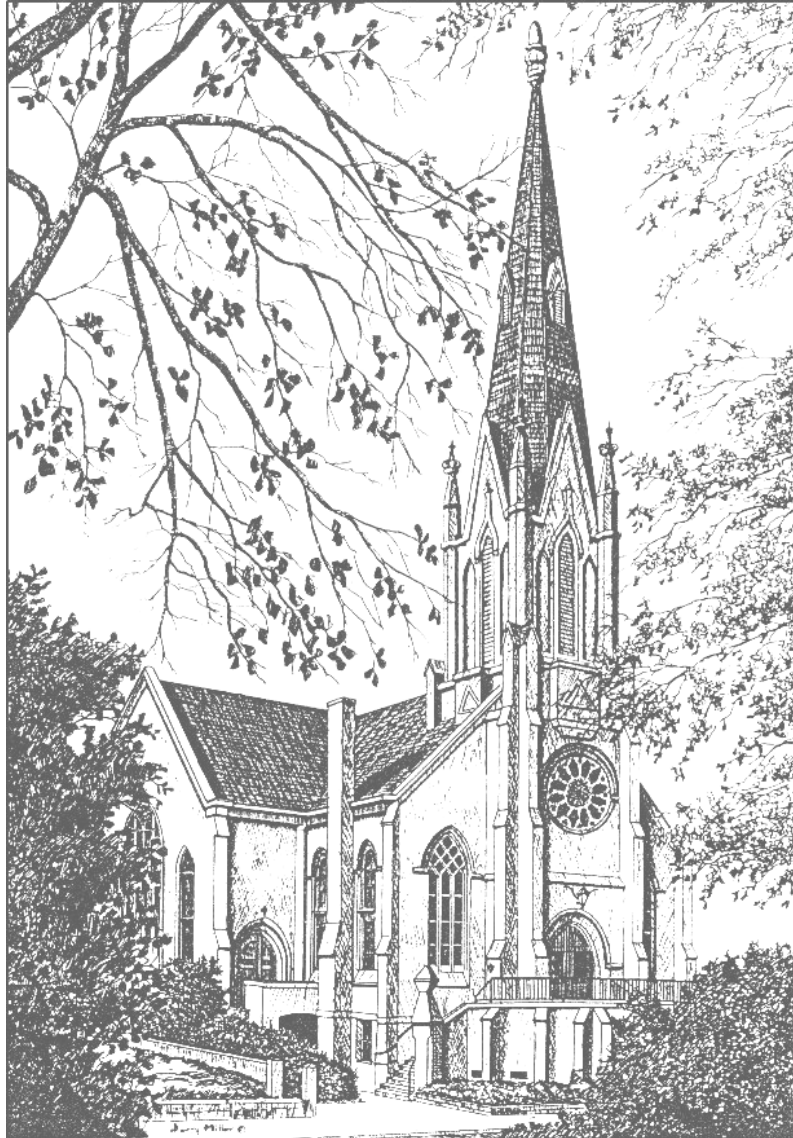


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 19, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the seventh Sunday after Pentecost, as we continue to worship in Ordinary Time through the Liturgical year. This is the nineteenth week we have been gathering virtually for worship, trusting in God's abiding presence to meet us each wherever we find ourselves on this day. We continue with the lectionary readings from Genesis, Psalms, and Matthew, reminding us of the steadfast love of God that sustains us through seasons of difficulty. The sermon centers on a challenging word from Paul, where we'll take a look at what it truly means to live in the flesh versus living in the spirit. The delineation between the flesh and spirit might not be what we were expecting, ultimately leading us to realities of a collective shift in worldview where life depends on life — and "none of us are free until all of us are free." What does the groaning of creation sound like? While we yearn and wait for hope in the midst of oppression and injustice, we are challenged to imagine and work for a new tomorrow.

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)

from Psalm 86

LEADER: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

PEOPLE: **give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

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

PEOPLE: **For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

LEADER: O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

PEOPLE: **But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

LEADER: Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

PEOPLE: **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

The Invocation

Trey Davis

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
to all people in distress.

Praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;
all our hopes and fears he knows.

In his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before him;
all who dwell in time and space.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace.

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 28:10–19a

Lynn Lingafelt

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

²⁴He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Morning Prayer

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, and the power,
 and the glory, forever. Amen.**

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of
the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did
not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When
we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of
God,¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with
him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with
eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not
of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set
free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We
know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the
creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for
adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not
hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon	“Groaning for Hope”	Leah Reed
The Musical Reflection	“Beach Spring” ² Mary Hauser, handbell soloist	arr. Kevin McChesney

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
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¹The text of “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” is in the public domain.

²“Beach Spring” arranged by Kevin McChesney, available from Sonology Music (<https://sonologymusic.com/musical-score/beach-spring-handbell-soloduet-mcchesney>)

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Our acolytes today are Lila, Audrey, and Caroline Davis.

Sympathy to **Carolyn Crutchfield** on the July 16 death of her husband, **Graham Crutchfield**; to **Betsy Smith** on the July 12 death of her husband, Tom Shell; and to the families of **Mazie Mangum** and **Jay Massey**. Mazie died on Tuesday, July 14, and Jay died on Sunday, July 12.

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 14, we have received \$5,645 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.