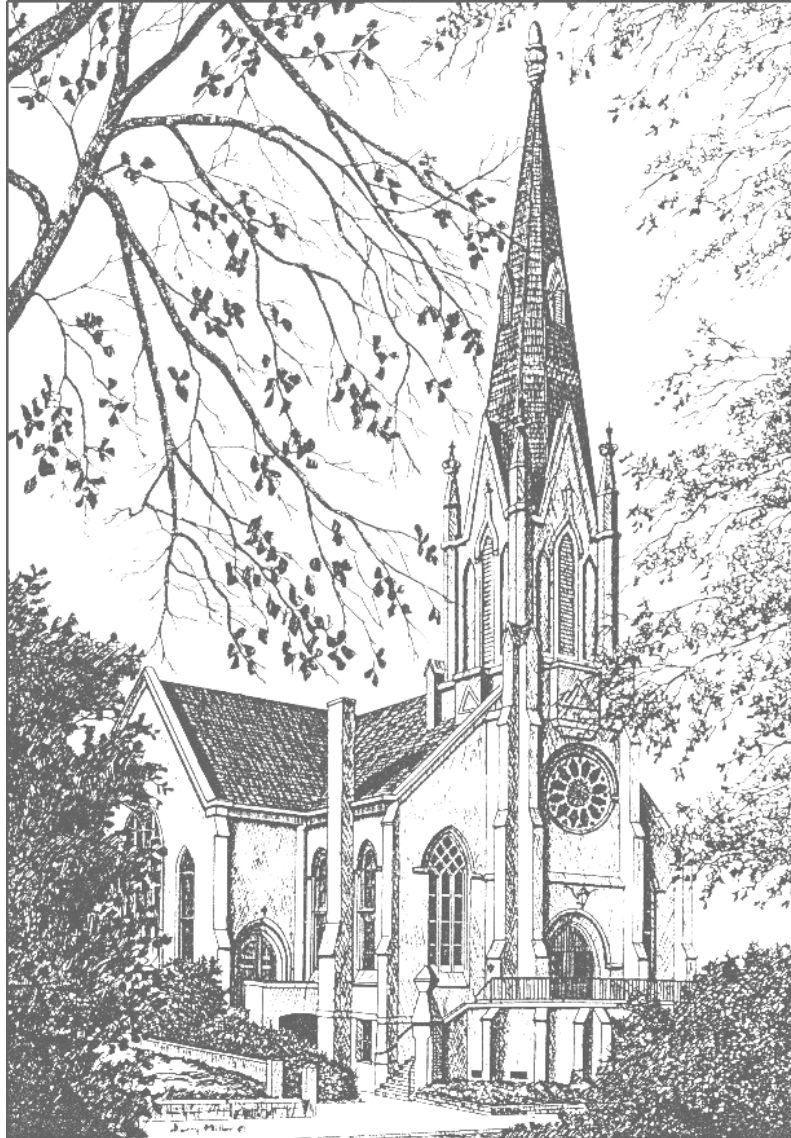


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 5, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and the Sunday closest to our national Day of Independence. While our worship is shaped primarily by the Christian calendar and a set of texts chosen to tell the Jesus story, we are called to live out our faith in a specific context. Thus, we are sensitive to critical moments in our national life, and the lectionary texts always seem to provide insight into the faith concerns that are at stake. This July 4th weekend, the lectionary includes Jesus' words, recorded in Matthew 11, "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." They sound very much like Emma Lazarus' words, housed at the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." How similar are they? What exactly does Jesus' invitation mean? And what is our responsibility as Christians to help shape our national aspiration and fulfill it? These are the questions that shape all of our worship today — our prayers, our hymns, and our proclamation — as we offer thanks and praise to God for the refuge we have found in Christ, and ponder the ways in which Christ would have us to provide refuge for 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)

from Psalm 145

LEADER: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is good to all and extends compassion to all creation.**

LEADER: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

PEOPLE: **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power.**

LEADER: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

PEOPLE: **and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

LEADER: The Lord is faithful in all words and gracious in all deeds.

PEOPLE: **The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is
 3. We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a loud the won -

sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and
 er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the

ev - ery grief he gen - tly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances Cox, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, Berlin, 1566; harm. Heinrich Reimann, 1895

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67

Leah Reed

³⁴So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' ⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." ⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Musical Reflection

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
Anita Burroughs-Price, harp

arr. Anita Burroughs-Price

The Morning Prayer

Trey Davis

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 11:16–19, 25–30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

“...this is not a text which looks only backward. Each stanza’s second half aspires to a greater vision and prays for God’s help toward lofty goals. For all the good that exists, there is yet needed a charitable welcome for all. For all the zeal and freedom, there is still a need for the control of self-restraint and legal safeguards. For all the riches and conquests, there is yet to be gained the greater wealth of nobility and of a divine standard for accomplishment.” [Paul A. Richardson in *The Worshiping Church*, Worship Leaders’ Edition; used with his permission.]

1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 a thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness!
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ery gain di - vine!
 and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!

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 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” and “America, the Beautiful” are in the public domain.

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Our acolytes today are Addie and Savannah Bacon.

Sympathy to **Debbie Willmschen** on the June 30 death of her father, **Ken Brown**.

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 29, we have received \$4,295 toward our goal of \$10,000.