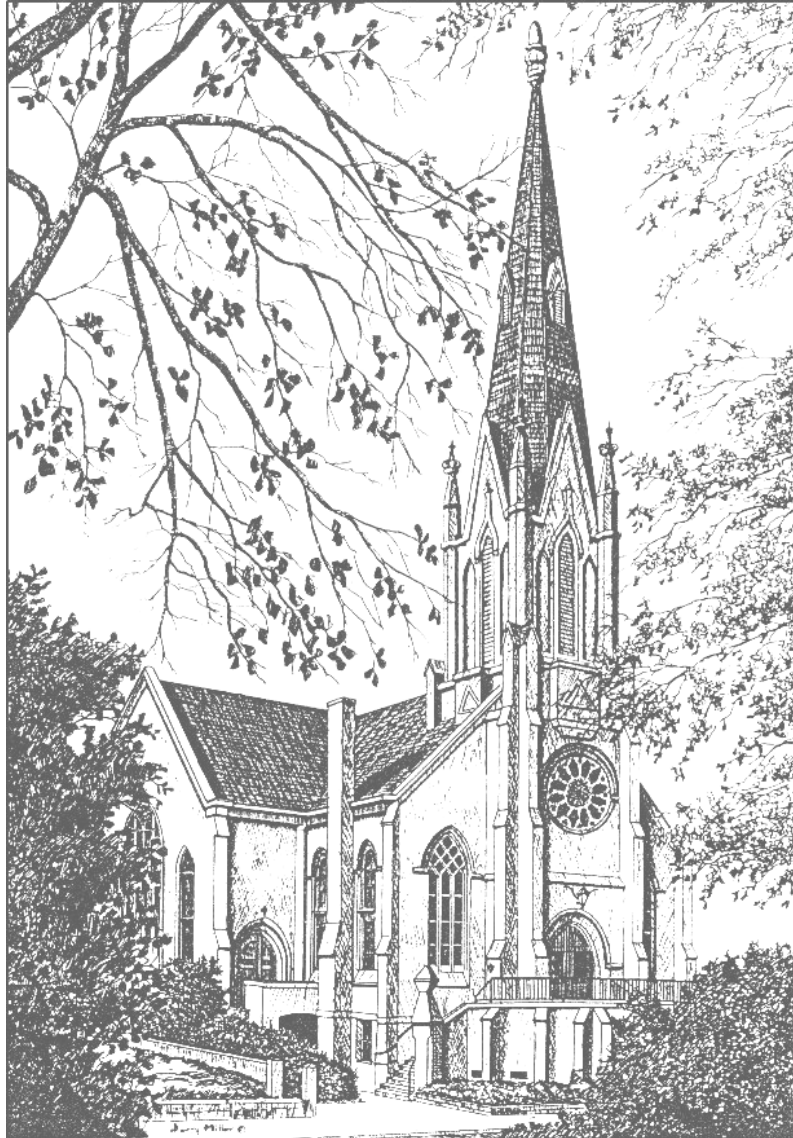


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 16, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost in the Christian year and the twenty-third Sunday in a row that we have not been able to gather in person for worship because of COVID-19. Both realities shape our worship today, but while it may seem like the pandemic has the greater influence on our lives, it is our belief that the Jesus story, as retold through a cycle of readings in the Christian year, actually has a greater influence than anything else. As profoundly as the pandemic is affecting everything we are doing right now, the life and ministry of Jesus will shape our lives long past the time of this pandemic, and even in this time, the Jesus story is still more defining. It beckons us to grow in our love for God and one another in every experience of life, including this experience. So, we offer songs of praise to the God whose love transcends all other realities. We lift up prayers for the people and world we seek to love with God. We reflect upon a difficult Gospel reading in which even Jesus seems to struggle with the calling to love all people yet, in the end, does extend love. And we experience a beautiful creative interpretation of the calling to love as Jennifer Huggins interprets through dance a song sung by Charles Blanchard. There are many things we cannot do right now, but we can still worship the God of love in creative ways, seek to grow in our love for all, and in the process, give bold witness to our faith.

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 67

LEADER: O God, be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face to shine upon us,
PEOPLE: **that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.**
LEADER: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
PEOPLE: **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**
LEADER: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
PEOPLE: **The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.**
LEADER: May God continue to bless us;
PEOPLE: **let all the ends of the earth revere God.**

The Invocation

Trey Davis

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 8.7.8.7.D.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 45:1–15

Lynn Lingafelt

¹Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to 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, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"An Alternative to Removing the Story from the Bible"

The Musical Response

“Show Us How to Love”†

Mark A. Miller

Jennifer Huggins, dancer; Charles Blanchard, vocalist

Hearts open, minds awake,
change us now for heaven’s sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred’s wake.
Show us how to love.

Hearts open, souls awake,
rules we made we now must break.
With our very own lives at stake
we must learn to love.

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.

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

†Words: Lindy Thompson, © 2019 Choristers Guild; Music: Mark A. Miller, © 2019 Choristers Guild. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

The tune and text of “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” 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 Hayes and Alice Strickland.

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 August 15, we have received \$6,970 toward our goal of \$10,000.