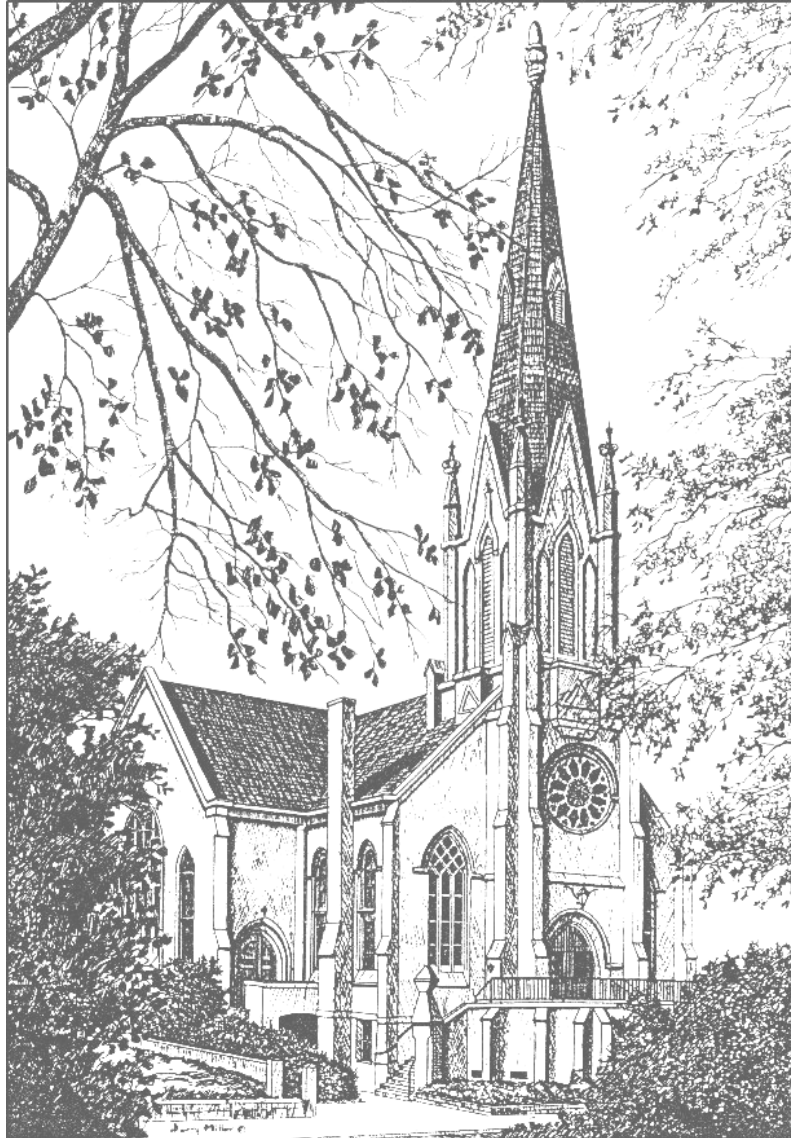


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 23, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, a part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. We continue with readings from Matthew and Romans, and after a series of readings from Genesis, we now begin a series from Exodus. Today's reading from the Hebrew canon describes the birth of Moses, but he is not the main character in this part of the story. Numerous courageous women - including Hebrew midwives, Moses' mother and sister, and an Egyptian princess - take center stage in preserving the life of this future leader in a dangerous time. Without their willingness to take action in bold and risky ways, he would not survive early childhood. The story serves as a reminder of the many people, particularly women, upon whom we all depend, and at the same time, it points to the character of God. For God's sovereignty in this story is revealed not through acts of nature or political force but through gentle acts of compassion and care. As we reflect upon this story, we are moved to worship through songs of praise, prayers of gratitude and hope, and glorious instrumental music. And we are challenged to consider how we might act in accordance with God's sovereign love and compassion, beginning with the nurture of the children God entrusts to our care, as witnessed in the dedication of Evelyn Naomi Filomena.

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 124

LEADER: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side when our enemies attacked us,

PEOPLE: **then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;**

LEADER: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

PEOPLE: **then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

PEOPLE: **We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;**

LEADER: the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

PEOPLE: **Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

Descant

6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;

be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all its years away,
 they fly, forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guide while life shall last,
 and our eternal home!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Trey Davis

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Musical Meditation

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. James Curnow

Bobby Hinson, trumpet; Claudia Hinson, piano

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.**

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

²¹Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

“The Protective Power of Maternal Love”

Christopher Chapman

The Musical Response

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”
Bobby Hinson, trumpet; Claudia Hinson, piano

arr. James Curnow

The Dedication of Evelyn Naomi Filomena, daughter of Tony and Leah Filomena

Leader: The nurture of children in faith is a sacred privilege and awesome responsibility. It begins with the commitment of parents and includes the love of the whole congregation. Today we present Evelyn Naomi Filomena to the church and dedicate her to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?

Parents: *We, her parents, do.*

Leader: What can we affirm about Evie?

People: **That she is a child of God by creation, made in the image of God.**

Leader: As Evie grows in her understanding of God and herself, how will we help her to learn about her true status as beloved?

People: **We will give her our love and include her in the life of the congregation.**

Leader: As Evie grows through different stages of life, what will we tell her about her story?

People: **We will tell her about Abraham and Sarah, about Mary and Joseph, about Jesus and the people who have sought to follow him in this place.**

Leader: What will we expect of Evie?

People: **We will look to the day when she will sit with us at the Lord’s Table, declare faith in Jesus Christ, and confirm the heritage we seek to pass on to her.**

LEADER: Tony and Leah, do you, as parents, embrace your primary responsibility to nurture your child in faith?

PARENTS: *Yes, we do, for we long to pass on our heritage to her.*

LEADER: Do you, the members of First Baptist Church, pledge to work toward creating a nurturing environment for Evie and all the children God entrusts to our care?

PEOPLE: **Yes, we do, for these children belong to us as well.**

LEADER: Then may God be with us and help us.

ALL: **Amen.**

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 text and tune of “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” are in the public domain. The hymn descant is by Donald P. Hustad, © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

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Our acolytes today are Kennedy and Eleanor Gardner.

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 18, we have received \$7,298 toward our goal of \$10,000.

There will be a virtual Church Conference via Zoom on Wednesday, September 2, at 5:30 p.m. The link and more information may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Those needing assistance should contact Deborah Mastrodonato (dmast@fbcraleigh.org).