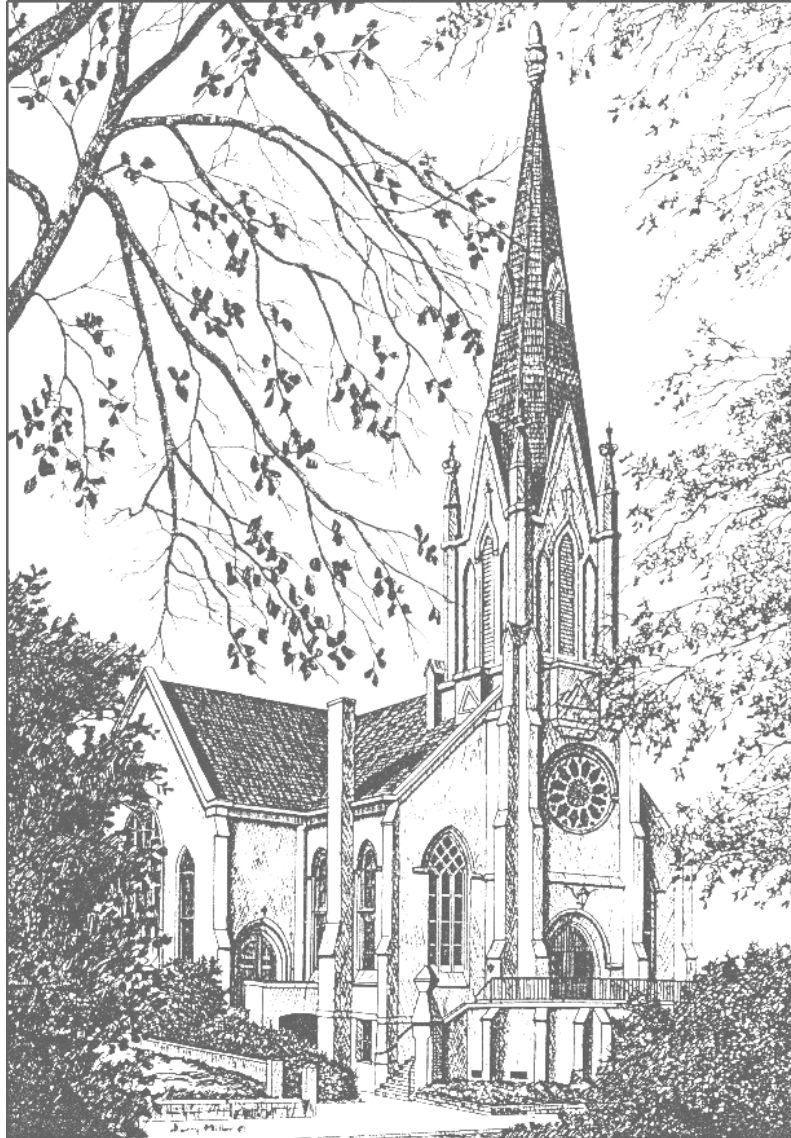


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 30, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost and the last Sunday that the Reverend Dr. Mary Alice Seals will help lead worship at FBC, Raleigh, before moving into a new phase of life in retirement. The service will be shaped by the lectionary texts, as usual, as we focus our attention on God, but elements and participants in the service, both live and virtual, will reflect Mary Alice's ministry. We are especially grateful for the assistance of Mark Hopper, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Henderson, NC, and friend of Mary Alice's, in planning and leading this service; for the participation in worship leadership by Paul Richardson, a longtime friend and colleague of Mary Alice's; and the help of Chuck Underwood in compiling the postlude video.

The sermon explores the challenging calling of Romans 12 to emulate the Jesus ethic of love not simply by treating others with kindness but by blessing those who persecute us, not repaying anyone evil for evil, and seeking to live peaceably with all. What does this calling look like in the age of COVID-19, renewed racial tensions, and unprecedented political division? The first verse of this challenging yet inspiring chapter of scripture, which we read last week and print every week, calls us to present our very lives — our bodies — as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God. The text says that to do so is our spiritual worship. Thus, giving ourselves over completely to the Jesus ethic of love is not just an outgrowth of our faith; it is an act of worship.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude "The Church's One Foundation" arr. Anna Laura Page
Mary Alice Seals, piano

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 from Psalm 105 Paul Richardson

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples. Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell others about the Lord's wonderful works. Seek the Lord, earnestly yearn for God's presence and strength. Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles, the judgments God has uttered, O offspring of Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones. For God is mindful of the covenant God made with Abraham, the promise sworn to Isaac and confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant. Praise the Lord!

The Invocation

Unison

1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o - ra - tion
 2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di - men - sion
 3. So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and love, through
 4. And did not Je - sus sing a Psalm that night when ut - most e - vil
 5. Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re - joice who

leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried,
 in the world of sound, as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
 cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:
 strove a - gainst the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
 have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

“Al - le - lu - ia!”
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

sing al - ways: “Al - le - lu - ia!”

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 3:1–15

Trey Davis

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 12:9–21

Leah Reed

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Morning Prayer

Lynn Lingafelt

The Solo

“The Lord’s Prayer”²

Mary Alice Seals, voice; Mark Hopper, piano

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Finding a Way to Embrace the Jesus Ethic of Love”

The Hymn of Discipleship

“We Are Travelers on a Journey”³

BEACH SPRING

We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we’ve seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.

The Presentation from the Personnel Committee

Jen Foster

The Words of Response

Mary Alice Seals

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Choral Response

“Trust in the Lord”⁴

TABELL

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



MARY ALICE SEALS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
99 N. SALISBURY ST | RALEIGH

Please join us for Mary Alice's Drive-By Goodbye celebration this afternoon from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Be sure to enter the back parking lot via the Edenton Street entrance to keep from blocking downtown traffic. The church's reserved parking spaces along Edenton Street will serve as a waiting area for those in line. Balloons, posters, and festive streamers on your vehicle are very welcome! Many thanks to the planning committee for their hard work in arranging this event: Anne Bullard, Ginger Graves, Rhonda Lowe, Becky Mercer, Mary Hauser, and Carolyn Dickens.

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²“The Lord’s Prayer” (setting by Albert Hay Malotte) — Music: © 1935 (renewed) G. Schirmer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

³“The Servant Song” (“We Are Travelers on a Journey” — text by Richard Gillard); © 1977 Scripture In Song/Maranatha! Music/ASCAP (all rights administered by Universal Music Group). Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

⁴“Trust in the Lord” — ©1981 Estate of Roland Tabbell. Used with permission.

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Our acolytes today are Cady and Will Mercer.

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 25, we have received \$7,323 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).