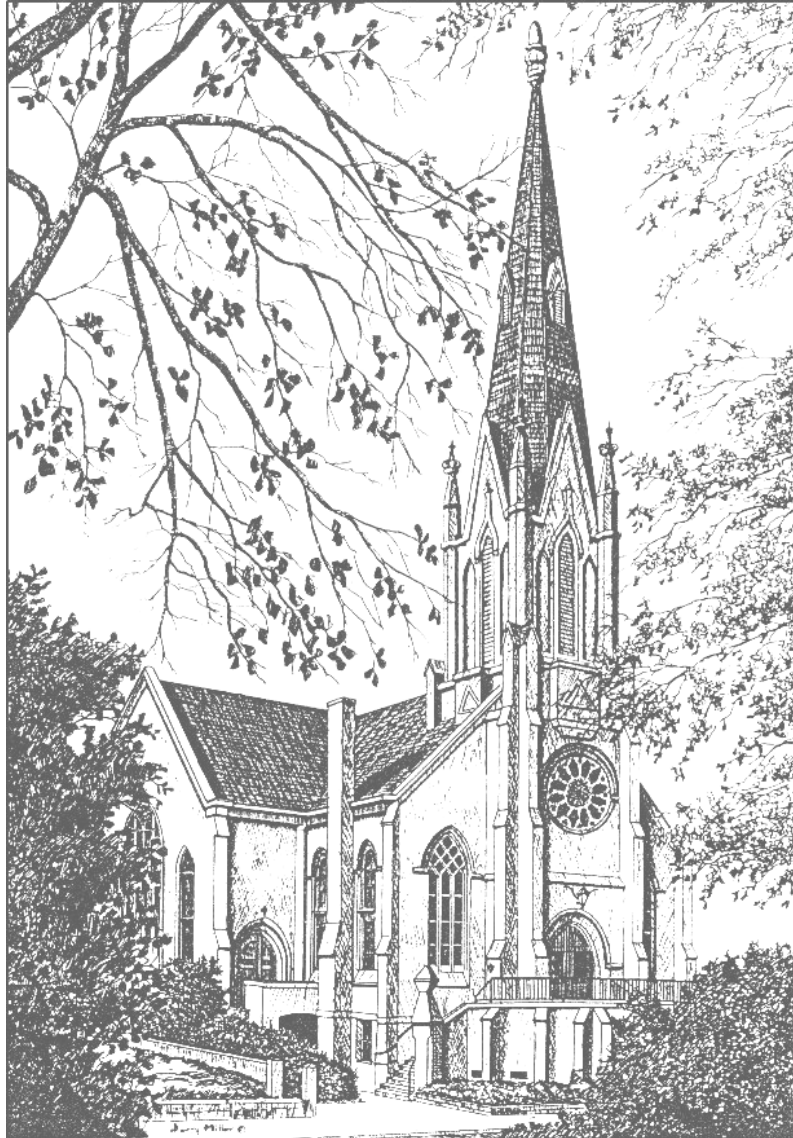


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 20, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the continuing season of Ordinary Time in the Christian year. It is my last Sunday preaching to you, a Sunday deep in an ongoing bizarreness of corporate life, so while we may call it Ordinary Time, it does not feel ordinary to me. It is a time of isolation, division, and yet community; it is a time of inward contemplation and outward oration; it is a time of fear and yet hope. The scriptures today speak to all of these things, addressing some of the most significant dilemmas of our era through the continuing story of the Israelites in the wilderness and through a parable about dissatisfied laborers. Both stories highlight our human tendency to grow fearful, to act selfishly, and to complain, impediments toward our relationships with each other and with God. We contemplate their stories in light of our own lives and seek to learn from their mistakes. Likewise, we recognize that words alone fail to capture the essence of Christ's message, so we worship with song and through the act of baptism. With each step, we hope to walk humbly, connecting with others on the same journey as we pursue a God who also desires to connect with us.

Trey Davis

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Christopher Chapman

The Prelude

"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"
Sue Crocker, organ

Arr. Philip Young

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

LEADER: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

PEOPLE: **Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

LEADER: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered. He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

PEOPLE: **They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.**

LEADER: He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

PEOPLE: **For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant. So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.**

LEADER: He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

PEOPLE: **that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.**

ALL: **Praise the LORD!**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3. Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us— free our
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 16:2–15

Christopher Chapman

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him— what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 1:21–30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1–16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

“Lessons from a Church Van”

Trey Davis

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Solo

“Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You”¹
Mary Ann Davis, soprano; Sue Crocker, piano

Jay Althouse

The Baptismal Prayer of Praise (responsive)²

LEADER: At the creation God’s Spirit swept over the surface of the waters. God divided the waters into sky and sea and created the dry land. God called forth light and brought life from the face of the deep.

PEOPLE: **God our creator makes all things new: Give God thanks and praise.**

LEADER: God brought Noah, his family, and all kinds of creatures through the waters of the flood to live in faithfulness and peace. The bow in the clouds is the sign of the covenant of peace that God has made with the earth and every living being.

PEOPLE: **God’s steadfast love endures forever: Give God thanks and praise.**

LEADER: By a strong east wind, the Lord drove back the waters of the sea, and the Hebrew slaves of Pharaoh crossed the sea on dry land. God’s awesome might brings God’s people through the waters to a new life of freedom.

PEOPLE: **God has given us a marvelous victory: Give God thanks and praise.**

LEADER: John baptized Jesus in the waters of the Jordan. When Jesus came up from the river, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and heard a voice from heaven saying, “This is my Son, the Beloved.”

PEOPLE: **God sends Jesus, the anointed One, to preach peace: Give God thanks and praise.**

LEADER: In the waters of baptism we are buried with Christ, and as Christ was raised from the dead, so we will rise with Christ and walk with him in newness of life.

PEOPLE: **By Jesus’ death and resurrection we are given life: Give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebration of Baptism

Elaine Frances Holley and Jacob Thomas Poteat

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Musical Response

“Jesus Loves Me”³
Mary Ann Davis, soprano; Sue Crocker, piano

arr. Michael T. Smith

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

“Chorale Prelude on *Old Hundredth*”
Sue Crocker, organ

Johann Pachelbel

The text and tune of “God of Grace and God of Glory” are in the public domain.

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

Sympathy to **Mary Powell Rhodes** on the September 16 death of her father, Henry McLeod.

Hurricane Laura Relief Offering: As happened last year, instead of the usual breakdown for the fall NC Mission Offering, all money collected will go to Baptists On Mission and CBF of NC Disaster Response Teams to help our neighbors who are victims of Hurricane Laura, both near and far. Please join CBF in praying for those affected by the Hurricane Laura and please give generously to this offering to support CBF Disaster Response’s relief and long-term recovery efforts.

Calendar Highlights • September 20-27, 2020

Sunday, September 20-Saturday, September 26 Family Promise

Sunday, September 20

- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
- 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- High School Sunday School (Zoom)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service — Baptism (YouTube)
- 4:00 3rd-5th Grade Outdoor Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 5:30 Youth Group (FBC parking lot and Zoom)

Monday, September 21

- 7:30 Adult Ministries Council (Virtual)

Tuesday, September 22

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)
- 5:15 Church Council Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:15 Middle School Small Groups (Zoom or 1107 Marlowe Road)
- 6:30 High School Bible Study (Helms’ home)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Wednesday, September 23

- 6:00 Centerpoint Small Groups (FBC parking lot and Zoom)
- 6:30 RAs (Pegram yard)

Thursday, September 24

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Virtual)
- 6:00 ITC Board Meeting (Virtual)
- 7:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Virtual)