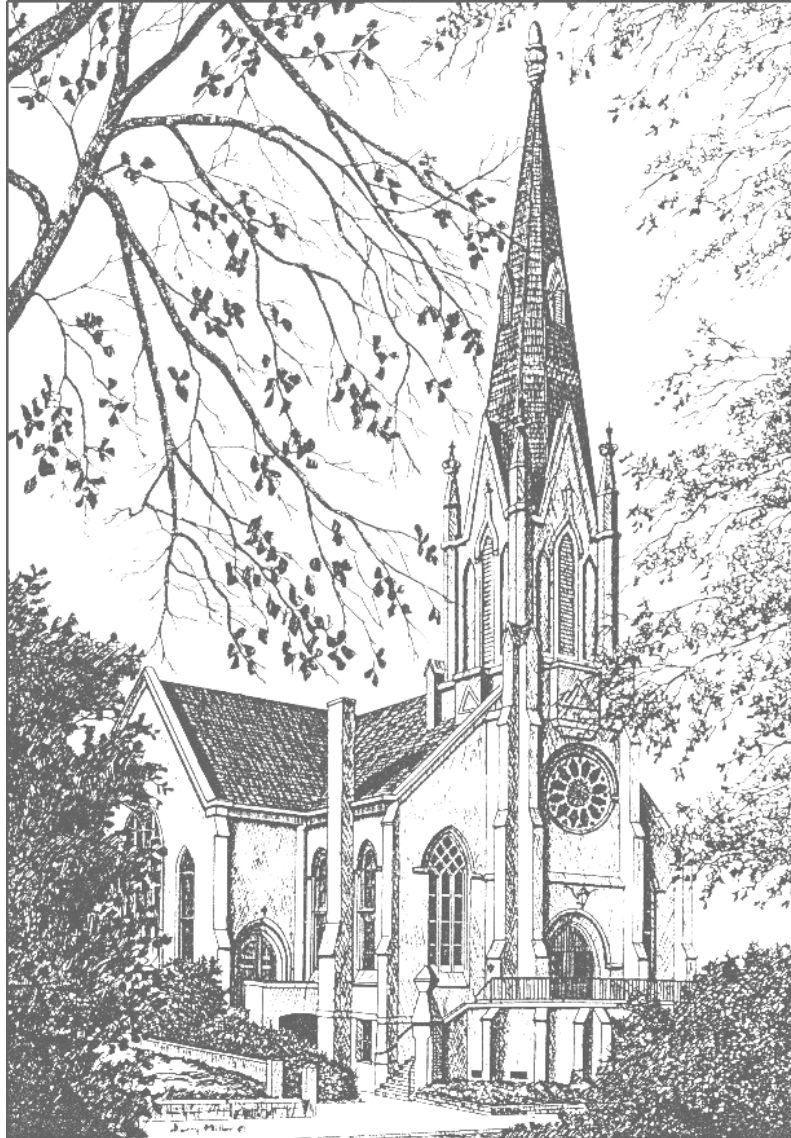


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 27, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. It is a season to ponder the possibilities for growth, and both the lectionary texts and the realities of life call us to grow, often in ways that overlap. For example, in the reading from Exodus, we continue to follow the ancient Israelites on their journey through the wilderness and we find parallels to our current realities. Like them, we meet many challenges and are tempted to cry out in frustration, yet at the very same time, we have opportunities to deepen our trust in God. We sing of such trust, we pray for such trust, and we ponder the conditions and realities that might build such trust. We also celebrate the ritual of child dedication today, naming our trust in God to guide our efforts to nurture children, and we recognize Trey Davis for fifteen years of faithful service and entrust his future ministry to God.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Children of the Heavenly Father”  
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Robert Hobby

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 78

LEADER: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

PEOPLE: **I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

LEADER: things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

PEOPLE: **We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation**

LEADER: the glorious deeds of the Lord, and the might,

PEOPLE: **and the wonders that God has done.**

LEADER: In the sight of their ancestors the Lord worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

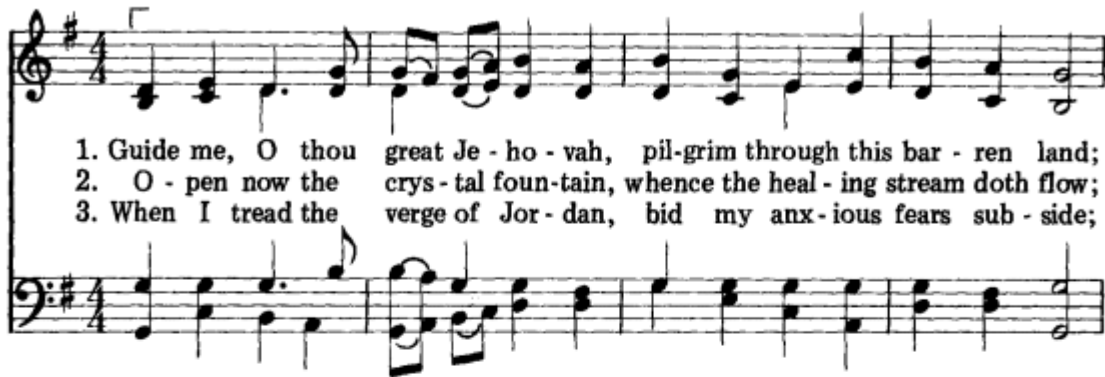
PEOPLE: **God divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.**

LEADER: In the daytime the Lord led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.

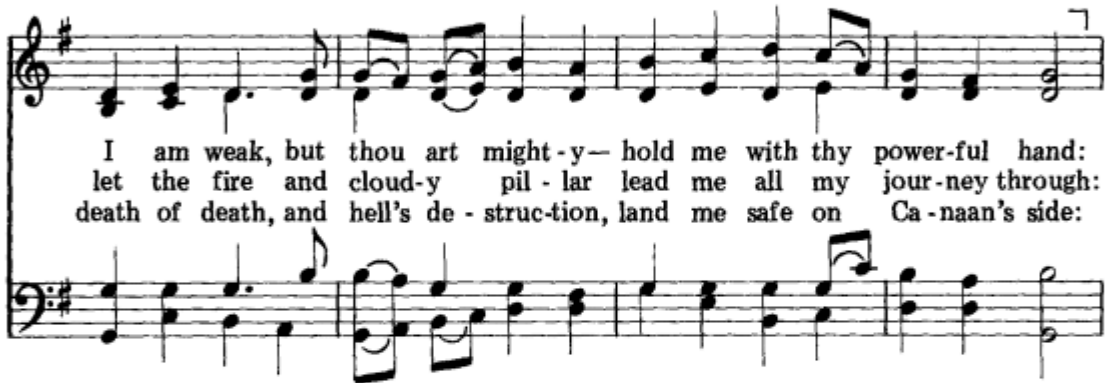
PEOPLE: **God split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep, making streams come out of the rock, and causing waters to flow down like rivers.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil-grim through this bar - ren land;  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



I am weak, but thou art might - y— hold me with thy power - ful hand:  
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:  
 death of death, and hell's de - struc-tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:



Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no  
 Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.  
 shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 17:1-7

Lynn Lingafelt

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 2:1-13

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23–32

<sup>23</sup>When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

"Help for the Journey"

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Musical Response

"Jesus Loves Me"

arr. Marianne Kim

Becky Mercer, flute; Sue Crocker, piano

The Dedication of Ryder Austin Helms, son of Chase and Jessica Helms

- 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 Ryder Austin Helms to the church and dedicate him to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?
- Parents: *We, his parents, do.*
- Leader: What can we affirm about Ryder?
- People: **That he is a child of God by creation, made in the image of God.**
- Leader: As Ryder grows in his understanding of God and himself, how will we help him to learn about his true status as beloved?
- People: **We will give him our love and include him in the life of the congregation.**
- Leader: As Ryder grows through different stages of life, what will we tell him about his story?
- People: **We will tell him 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 Ryder?
- People: **We will look to the day when he will sit with us at the Lord's Table, declare faith in Jesus Christ, and confirm the heritage we seek to pass on to him.**
- LEADER: Chase and Jess, 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 him.*
- LEADER: Do you, the members of First Baptist Church, pledge to work toward creating a nurturing environment for Ryder 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.**

The Recognition of Trey Davis

Mary Nash Rusher

The Words of Response

Trey Davis

The Charge from the Congregation

Jessica Helms, Sarah Lingafelt,  
Sarah Catherine Rhodes

- LEADER: Jacob departed from his community and set out on a journey of self-discovery. Night fell, and Jacob—alone and cold—slept beneath the stars. During the night, he had a mysterious encounter, a struggle, with God. Though the struggle was long and he was injured in the process, Jacob refused to let go. Like Abraham, he received a blessing from God, who praised him for his tenacity and gave him the name of Israel.
- TREY: *Dear God, I am grateful that you bless us when we wrestle with you. I pray for time to be still and that in stillness I might find comfort, especially when I am alone. I pray that you will give me determination to face the things that are daunting.*
- LEADER: Mary learned from an angel that she would give birth to the Son of God. The events surrounding that birth were terrifying and confusing. While she had every right to be afraid, we are told that she “pondered these things in her heart,” meditating upon her love for God and God’s love for her.
- TREY: *Dear God, I am grateful that you offer us calm. When I am anxious or afraid, help me to ponder you and to think upon our world. Help me to recognize and appreciate your ability to steady us when we are shaken.*

LEADER: Jesus spoke to a crowd of over 5000, fed them with loaves and fishes, and then dismissed the mob. He even sent his disciples away in a boat. The crowd dispersed, and Jesus went alone to a mountaintop to pray. Exhausted by the work that he had done and the daunting future that lay ahead, Jesus took time to be alone, to sit in nature, to pray, and to recharge.

TREY: *Dear God, I am grateful that you help us to recharge. Remind me to turn to you when I am weary. Help me remember that there is power in solitude. May I seek renewal in your love.*

LEADER: Church, what have you to say to Trey and the Davis family?

PEOPLE: **We promise to continue to pray for, to nurture, to comfort, to challenge, and to love you. You will always be part of our church family, and we will hold you in our hearts. May you find God wherever you are going, and may you love God with all your hearts. 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

"It Is Well with My Soul"  
Chad Reed, guitar

arr. Chad Reed

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The text and tune of "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" are in the public domain.

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Our acolytes today are Caroline and Lauren Bradley.

Many thanks to Chuck Underwood for producing the postlude video and to Chad Reed for playing the guitar!

Today is Trey Davis' last Sunday at FBC Raleigh. We recognize him in worship, giving thanks for the fourteen years he served as Minister of Youth and College and the past year he served as Associate Pastor. We honor him with a video filled with personal words of affirmation and appreciation. And we pray for him and his family in his future ministry, trusting that the gifts that enriched our shared life in manifold ways for fifteen years will enrich other communities of faith.

Honoring our veterans: The church maintains a list of members who are military service veterans and those on active duty having connections to First Baptist. If you know of eligible individuals whose names have not previously been on these lists, please contact Jennie Herrick ([jherrick@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:jherrick@fbcraleigh.org) or 919-832-4485).

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. As of September 22, we have received \$615.00.

## **Calendar Highlights • September 27–October 3, 2020**

Sunday, September 27

- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
- 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- High School Sunday School (Underwood home)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service — Baby Dedication (YouTube)
- 2:00 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 1st and 2nd Grade Outdoor Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 5:30 Youth Group (FBC parking lot and Zoom)

Monday, September 28

- 7:00 Adult Ministries Council (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 29

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or 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 30

- 6:00 Centerpoint Presentation (Zoom)
- 5:30 Preschool Missions and Music (Bissette yard)

Thursday, October 1

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

Friday, October 2 – Monday, October 5

Middle School Retreat (Caraway)

Friday, October 2

- 6:00 Toy Joy Prep (FBC, building-wide)

Saturday, October 3

- 9:00 Community Garden Workday (Cedar Point Apartments)
- Toy Joy Prep (FBC, building-wide)