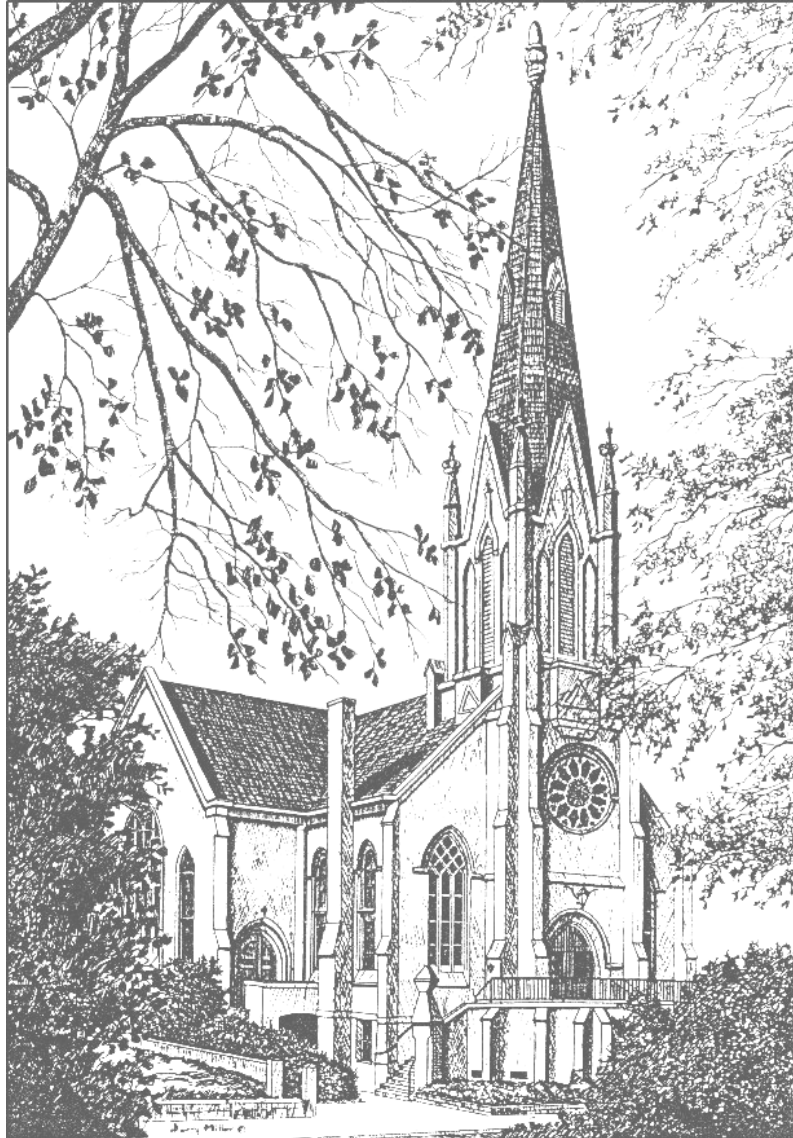


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 6, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, a part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian Year. It is a season to ponder possibilities for growth, and thus, the liturgical color is green. It is also Labor Day weekend, a time set aside to honor the labor movement and the contribution of laborers to our nation. Though this holiday is often regarded simply as a three-day weekend with little real purpose, it seems a bit more significant this year when so many laborers are unable to work due to the restrictions of COVID-19. And this is the first Sunday our Interim Music Director, Sue Crocker, helps lead worship. We are grateful for her willingness to share her gifts with us during this time of transition and preparation for the future. The sermon explores the reading from Exodus 12 which establishes a central ritual of Judaism — Passover. The text points not just to the significance of this sacred feast but to the critical role all rituals play in our lives. Rituals like baptism and communion provide ballast in uncertain times, and they give us hope for the future, as we realize that the same God who has brought us this far will continue to sustain us.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Be Thou My Vision”  
Sue Crocker, piano

arr. Michael Larkin

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 149

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful.

PEOPLE: **Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their Ruler.**

LEADER: Let them praise God’s name with dancing, making melody with tambourine and lyre.

PEOPLE: **For the Lord takes pleasure in the people of God and adorns the humble with victory.**

LEADER: Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty, the King of cre - a -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, a - bove all things so won - drou - sly reig -  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal -  
 ning; shel - tering you un - der his wings, and so gent - ly sus -  
 you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at -  
 him! All that has life and breath, come now with prai - ses be -

va - tion! Come, all who hear; now to his  
 tain - ing! Have you not seen all that is  
 tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 fore him. Let the A - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near, join me in glad a - do - ra - tion.  
 need - ful has been sent by his gra - ious or - dain - ing?  
 migh - ty can do, if with his love he be - friends you.  
 pe - ople a - gain; glad - ly for - e - ver a - dore him.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 12:1-14

Lynn Lingafelt

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15–20

<sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

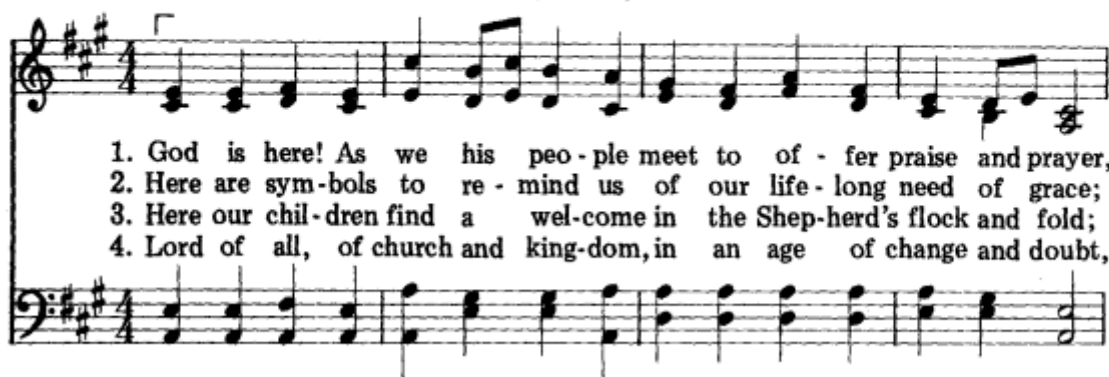
LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

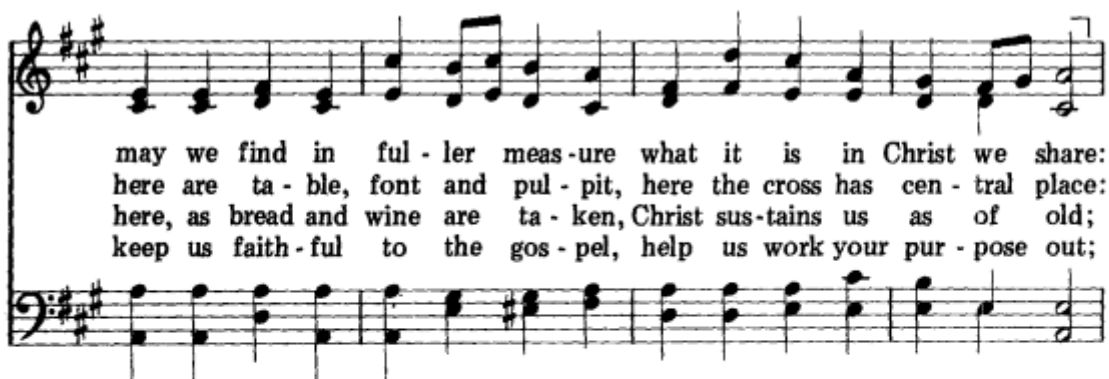
The Sermon

“Claiming the Vital Role of Rituals”

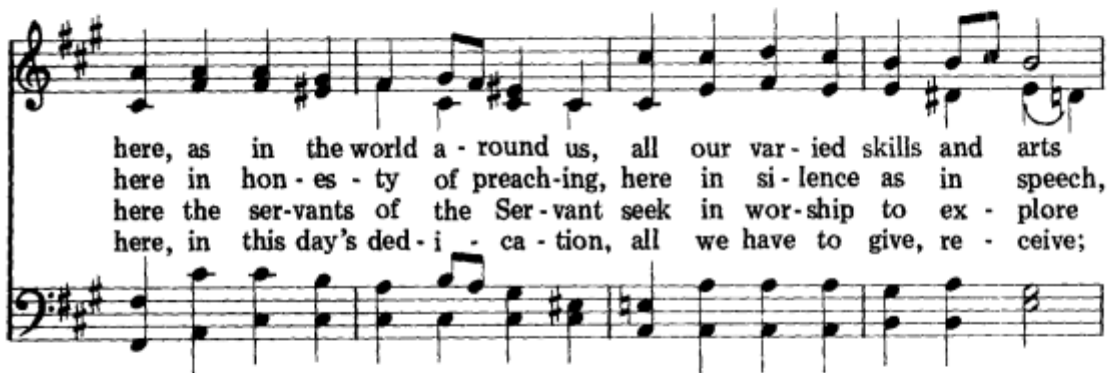
Christopher Chapman



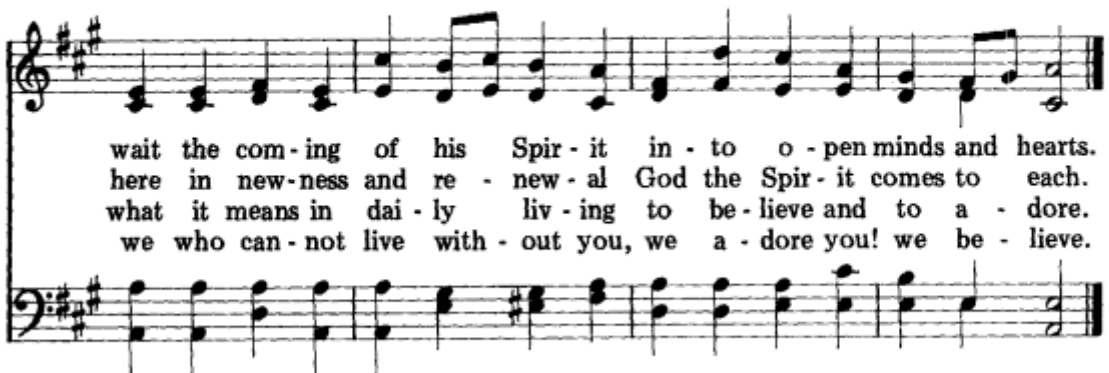
1. God is here! As we his peo - ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,  
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;  
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep-herd's flock and fold;  
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of change and doubt,



may we find in ful - ler meas - ure what it is in Christ we share:  
 here are ta - ble, font and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place;  
 here, as bread and wine are ta - ken, Christ sus - tains us as of old;  
 keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out;



here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence as in speech,  
 here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of his Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here in new - ness and re - new - al God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! we be - lieve.

## 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

“If You Would Trust in God to Guide You”  
Sue Crocker, organ

J. S. Bach

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Our acolytes today are Daniel and Crosby Rohrbaugh.

Sympathy to **Frances Shell** on the death of her sister, Ann Parker Garrison.

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 31, we have received \$7,323 toward our goal of \$10,000.

On Sunday, September 13, at 5:30 p.m., we will hold a Called Church Conference via Zoom to consider the recommendation for a new Youth and College Minister. There will be multiple opportunities to meet the candidate that weekend. See the September 8 issue of *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.