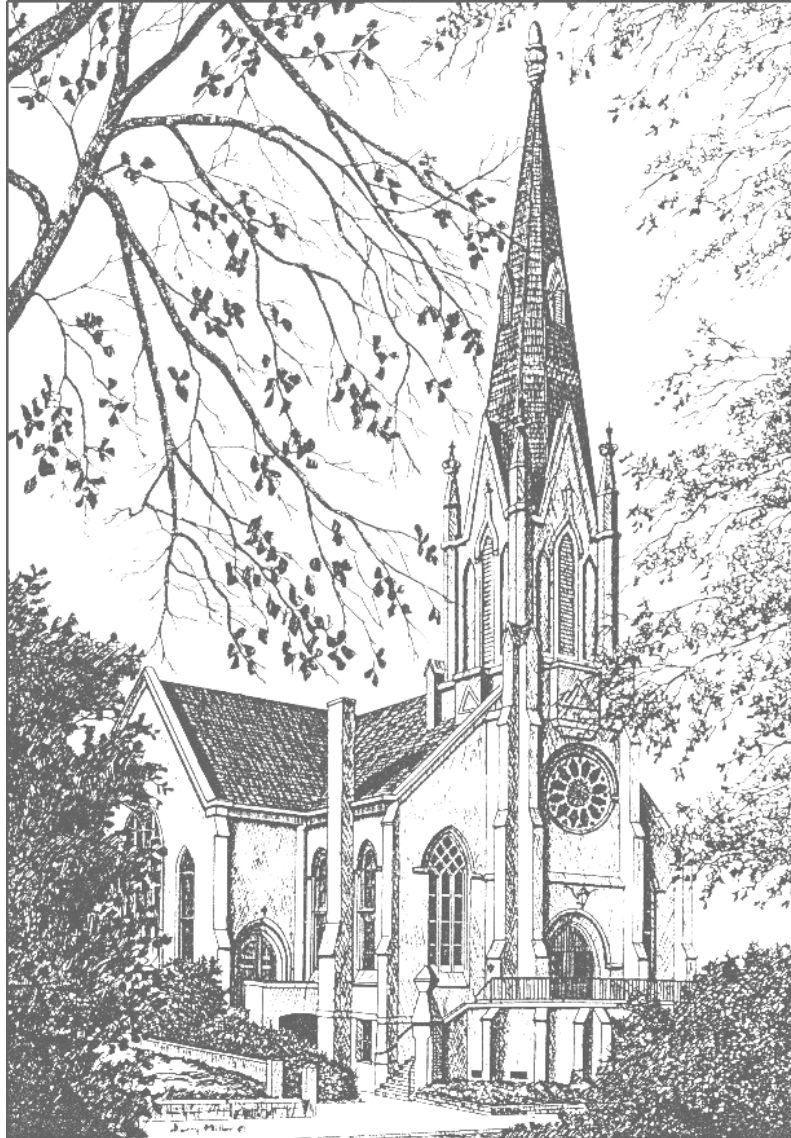


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



October 11, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Throughout this season after Pentecost, what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year, the lectionary has included a series of continuous readings from the Torah — first in Genesis and now in Exodus. In last week's reading, we considered the Ten Commandments, one of which is not to make an idol of anything but to worship God alone. In this week's reading, the Israelites, fearful because Moses has been absent for many days, make an idol. It is their story, it is the human story, and it is our story. The instruction is clear, our desire is to follow it, but we struggle do so. Today's service is shaped by this narrative from Exodus. We begin with a psalm that references the making of an idol in the wilderness and sing a hymn that connects us to this story, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love." The sermon provides a first-person reflection on the Israelites' experience from Aaron, allowing his perspective to shine a light on our struggle and hope. We respond with a prayer of confession and assurance, and by singing, "Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, 'Christian, love me more.'"

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Pastorale on St. Anne"
Sue Crocker, organ

Paul Manz

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 106

LEADER: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord whose steadfast love endures forever.

PEOPLE: **Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all God's praise?**

LEADER: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

PEOPLE: **Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity.**

LEADER: They made a calf at Horeb and worshipped a cast image.

PEOPLE: **They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.**

LEADER: They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,

PEOPLE: **wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.**

LEADER: Therefore God planned to destroy them, had not Moses, God's chosen one, stood in the breach.

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord whose steadfast love endures forever!**

The Invocation

Michael Hood

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my *Eb-en-e-zer, hith-er by thy help I've come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise his name—I'm fixed up-on it—name of God's re-deem-ing love.
 he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, bought me with his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

* 1 Samuel 7:12

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 32:1-14

Leah Reed

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 4:1-9

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

“Learning from the Lesser-Known, Older Brother”

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance (unison)

Holy God, we know that you alone are worthy of our worship and praise, but like the ancient Israelites, in our times of fear and unrest, we look to other sources of comfort and assurance. Rather than quickly acknowledging our idolatry, we offer explanations and make excuses. Sometimes we bow down to truly unworthy things, but more often we simply elevate good things to the status of ultimate, which we know only you deserve. Forgive us, O God, for our obsession with certainty, control, power, and misplaced patriotism. Cleanse us of all unnecessary anxiety. And assure us once again of your love and mercy, as we trust that your peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray, amen.

**Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us — by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.**

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

"O God, Our Help"
Sue Crocker, organ

Healey Willan

The text and tune of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and "Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult" are in the public domain.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Our acolytes today are Faith and Felicia Hoover.

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 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 October 6, we have received \$1,045.00.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. As of October 6, we have received \$8,393 toward our goal of \$10,000.

Calendar Highlights • October 11–17, 2020

Sunday, October 11

- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
High School Sunday School (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)
- 1:00 Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing (3200 Wellington Ct, Ste 111, 27615)
- 2:00 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 3:00 Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing (3200 Wellington Ct, Ste 111, 27615)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (TBD)
- 5:00 Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 5:30 Youth Group (FBC parking lot and Zoom)

Monday, October 12

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 13

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 6:15 Middle School Small Group (Zoom or 1107 Marlowe Road)
- 6:30 High School Bible Study (Helms' home)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Wednesday, October 14

- 5:30 1st–5th Grade Girls Music and Missions (Wade yard)
- 6:15 Centerpoint Intergenerational Program (Zoom/FBC Garth)

Thursday, October 15

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

Saturday, October 17

- 9:00 Toy Joy Prep (FBC, 1st and 2nd floors)
- 1:00 Toy Joy Prep (FBC, 1st and 2nd floors)