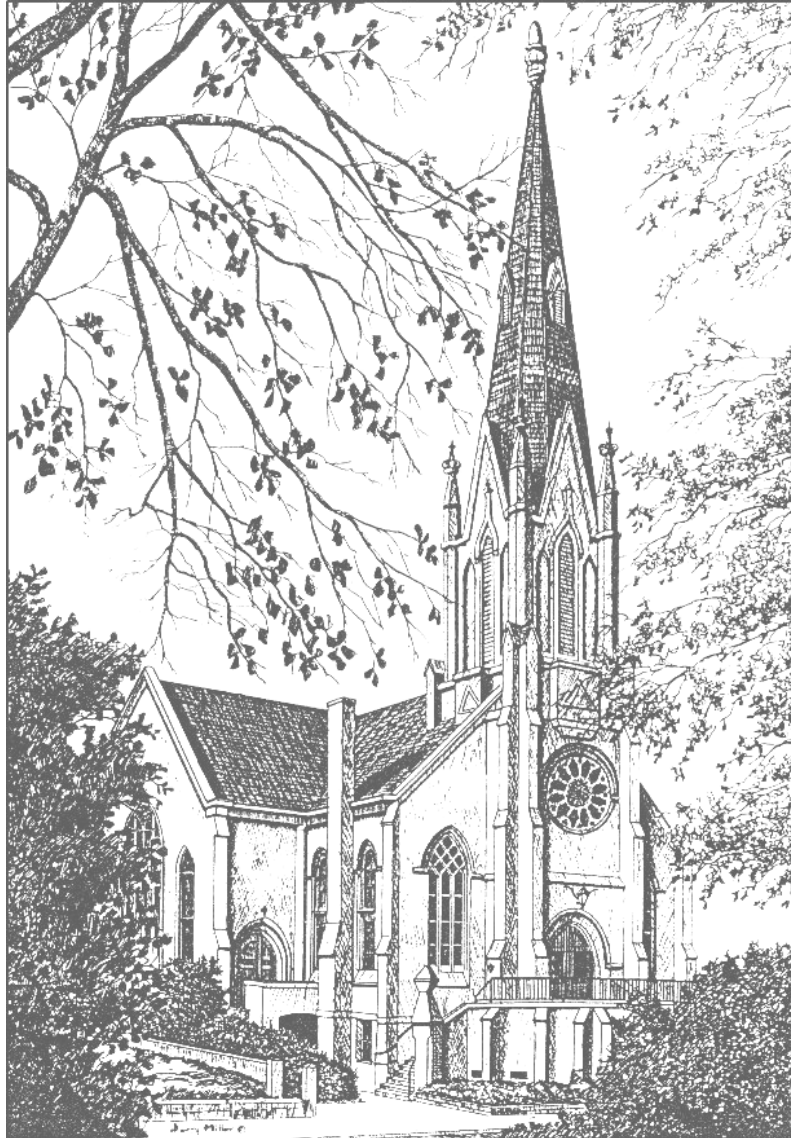


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



October 18, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we continue on our journey through a pandemic, searching for evidence of God's care and seeking signs of hope, we reflect on a story from Exodus in which Moses is in a similar situation. God has decided not to continue with the people, after their acts of idolatry, but Moses persuades God to reconsider. Yet Moses longs for something more than a promise to hold onto as he leads the people to a land that is said to flow with milk and honey. God offers something more, but not exactly what Moses requests, a self-revelation but one cloaked in mystery. Such is our experience of the Holy, as we sing, "Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes." Yet, even this mysterious revelation is enough to sustain us. Thus, we offer praise to the God who is hidden only by the splendor of light, we lift up prayers with the boldness of Moses pleading for his people, and we seek to be evidence of God's care and signs of hope for others.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"The Ash Grove"
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Wilbur Held

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 96

LEADER: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

PEOPLE: **Sing to the Lord, bless God's name; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

LEADER: Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

PEOPLE: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; to be revered above all gods.**

LEADER: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

PEOPLE: **Honor and majesty are before the Lord; in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 33:12–23

Lynn Lingafelt

¹²Moses said to the Lord, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ ¹³Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” ¹⁴He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” ¹⁵And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.” ¹⁷The Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” ¹⁸Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” ¹⁹And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” ²¹And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

"Assurance in the Midst of Mystery"

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

MORECAMBE

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King,
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross - there teach my heart to cling;
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

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

"St. Denio"
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Wilbur Held

The text and tune of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" and "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" are in the public domain.

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Our acolytes today are Cara Lynn and Jesse Vogel.

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 14, we have received \$1,045.00.

Calendar Highlights • October 18–24, 2020

Sunday, October 18

- 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)
- 2:00 3rd Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 1st–5th Grade Sunday School (Yard TBD)
- 5:30 Youth Group (FBC parking lot and Zoom)

Monday, October 19

- 7:00 Adult Ministries Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 20

- 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 21

- 5:30 1st–5th Grade Boys Music and Missions (J. Pegram yard)
- 6:00 Centerpoint Program (Zoom)

Thursday, October 22

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

Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24

Youth/College Overnight (Dare home)