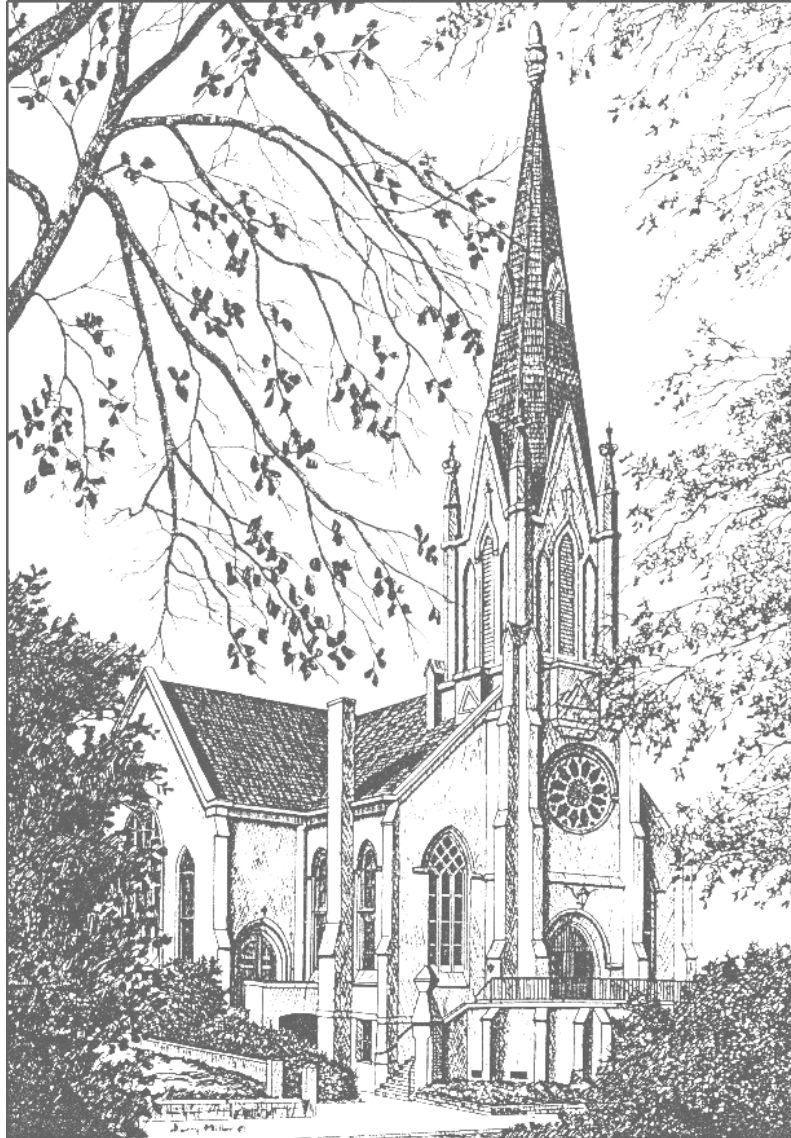


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 15, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, the next to last Sunday in the Christian year. We continue with readings from 1 Thessalonians and Matthew, and we continue to follow the ancient Israelites as, in today's reading from Judges, they continue to face challenges even in the Promised Land. The challenges center on the people's unfaithfulness, but every time they fall short, they cry out to God for help, and God responds with mercy. This pattern is not that different from ours. Indeed, the sermon explores the parallels of our time and ancient times, and the service as a whole creates space for us to acknowledge our shortcomings and seek God's mercy. We lift up prayers for our nation which seems to be in as much turmoil right now as ancient Israel, we sing songs of praise to the God who extends mercy again and again, and we ponder our calling to respond with faithful stewardship of all that we have and are, as we hear again two brief messages linked to our stewardship theme of preparing the way of the Lord in the wilderness so that the glory of the Lord may be revealed.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"  
Sue Crocker, organ

Healey Willan

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 123

LEADER: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

PEOPLE: **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,**

LEADER: as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

PEOPLE: **so our eyes look to the Lord our God who has mercy upon us.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your  
 2. Praise Him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple  
 3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and  
 4. An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
 fears he knows. In his hands he gen - tly bears us,  
 face to face. Sun and moon bow down be - fore him;

ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Judges 4:1-7

Lynn Lingafelt

<sup>1</sup>The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. <sup>2</sup>So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. <sup>3</sup>Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

<sup>4</sup>At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. <sup>5</sup>She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. <sup>6</sup>She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. <sup>7</sup>I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

<sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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.**

<sup>14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

"I Then Shall Live"†

FINLANDIA

1. I then shall live as one who's been for - giv - en;  
 2. I then shall live as one who's learned com - pas - sion;  
 3. Your king - dom come a - round and through and in me,

I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid. I know my  
 I've been so loved that I'll risk lov - ing too. I know how  
 your power and glo - ry, let them shine through me; your hal - lowed

name is clear be - fore my Fa - ther; I am his child, and  
 fear builds walls in - stead of brid - ges; I dare to see an -  
 name, O may I bear with hon - or, and may your liv - ing

I am not a - fraid. So great - ly par - doned, I'll for - give an -  
 oth - er's point of view. And when re - la - tion - ships de - mand com -  
 King - dom come in me. The Bread of Life, O may I share with

oth - er; the law of love I glad - ly will o - bey.  
 mit - ment, then I'll be there to care and fol - low through.  
 hon - or, and may you feed a hun - gry world through me.

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

“And the Glory of the Lord”

George F. Handel

Sue Crocker, organ

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Our acolytes today are Bailey and Jackson Underwood.

Sympathy to **Susan Nichols** on the November 12 death of her mother, Patsy Kelly.

Our annual stewardship emphasis has begun with the theme *In the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord... And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed*. Please help us to meet our budget goal by returning your pledge card to the church office (you may also pledge online at: <https://fbcraleigh.org/pledgecard/>). As of November 12, we have received **59 pledges** totaling **\$443,461.68** for the 2021 budget.

End-of-year giving: Please continue to be faithful to your financial stewardship commitment. Your generous support toward this year’s budget will allow us to end the year with a solid base on which to begin 2021. Year-end contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31.

Hanging of the Greens will be held virtually this year. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of holiday decorations for our sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or by following the link in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Friday, December 4.

Hurricane Relief Offering: As happened last year, instead of the usual breakdown for the fall NC Mission Offering, all money collected will go CBF Global Disaster Response to help our neighbors who are victims of hurricanes. Please join CBF in praying for those affected by the hurricanes and please give generously to this offering to support CBF Disaster Response’s relief and long-term recovery efforts. As of November 10, we have received \$2,255.00.

## Calendar Highlights • November 15–21, 2020

Sunday, November 15

- High Schoolers Return from Retreat (Camp Caraway)
- 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 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 3:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Ellis yard)
- 5:30 Middle School Youth Group (Underwood Home)
- Deacons' Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 17

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- High School Bible Study (FH/302)
- 6:15 Middle School Small Group (Zoom or 1107 Marlowe Road)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Wednesday, November 18

- 5:30 Church Conference (Zoom)
- Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Music and Mission (Bissette yard)
- 6:00 ITC Board Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday, November 19

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

Friday, November 20

- 8:00 Toy Joy Prep (Building-wide)

Saturday, November 21, and Sunday, November 22

Toy Joy Event