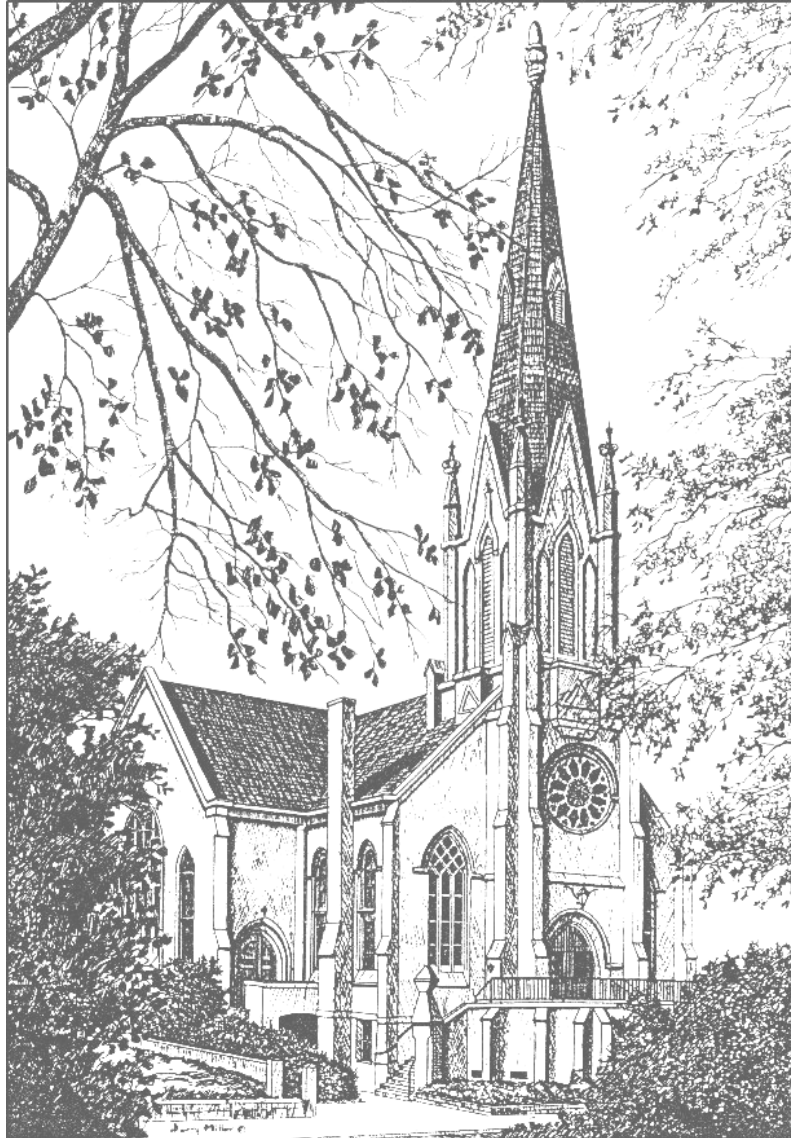


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 22, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 22, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Reign of Christ Sunday, the last day of the Christian year, a day in which we celebrate the sovereignty of Christ over all of human history, indeed all of creation. This is also the week of Thanksgiving, a national day of recognizing our many blessings. And this is the last Sunday of our annual stewardship emphasis. All three of these emphases shape our worship today as we sing praise to the Christ who reigns, lift up prayers of thanksgiving, and hear thoughtful stewardship words which challenge us to consider whether Christ reigns over all of our lives, including our financial commitments. The sermon explores the reasons why the Reign of Christ Sunday was established in 1925, why the goals have not been met, and what might help us to address them more faithfully. The answer lies in Jesus' parable about the sheep and the goats found in our reading from Matthew 25.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Dale Wood

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)

Psalm 100

LEADER: Make a joyful noise, to the Lord, all the earth.

PEOPLE: **Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

LEADER: Know that the Lord is God.

PEOPLE: **It is God who has made us, to whom we belong; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

LEADER: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

PEOPLE: **Give thanks and bless God's name.**

LEADER: For the Lord is good;

PEOPLE: **God's steadfast love endures forever, God's faithfulness to all generations.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made, and end - less
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - oners
 5. Let all the peo - ple rise and bring their spe - cial

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from
 prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blessed.
 songs a - gain and earth re - peat the loud A - men.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Ezekiel 34:11-24

Lynn Lingafelt

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

¹⁷As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet? ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31–46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Solo

“Ride On, King Jesus”
 Kathryn Johnson, soprano

Hall Johnson

The Sermon

“What Might Actually Change the World”

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“For the Fruit of All Creation”†

ARD HYD Y NOS

1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The Stewardship Moment

Jamie, Cara Lynn, and Jesse Vogel
John Shell (and Evie)

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"
Sue Crocker, organ

George F. Handel

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Our acolytes today are Ella and Nathan Sasser.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the November 17 birth of Laney Lasater Robbins, daughter of **Michelle** and Bryan **Robbins**, sister of Harris, and granddaughter of **Tom and Anne Rollins**.

We welcome soprano Kathryn Johnson as a participant in today's service of worship. Ms. Johnson is a Raleigh native and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill (BM Vocal Performance/Opera), as well as The Boston Conservatory of Music (MM in Vocal Performance/Opera and MM in Vocal Pedagogy). Currently, she serves as the Director of Community Outreach and Mission at First Presbyterian Church-Raleigh. Besides music, Kathryn's biggest passion is serving our downtown neighbors and Wake County residents in need.

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 19, we have received 90 pledges totaling \$604,290 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, on Sunday, December 6. 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 19, we have received \$2,455.00.

Calendar Highlights • November 22–28, 2020

Sunday, November 22

- 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 Toy Joy Event, Day 2 (1st & 2nd floors, parking lot)
- 2:00 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:30 Youth Group (FBC parking lot/Zoom)
- 7:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- Youth-led Interfaith Unity Service (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 24

- 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)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Wednesday, November 25–Friday, November 20

Church Office Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)