

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812

*Gloria
in excelsis
& Deo*

January 3, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 3, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the second Sunday after Christmas, part of an ongoing, twelve-day celebration of the Incarnation. The reading from John 1 provides the most detailed biblical exploration of this central claim of Christian faith and the hymn of devotion sets an ancient meditation on its meaning to music. The sermon is based on the reading from Jeremiah which reminds us that the God who brings us hope through the birth of a child in Bethlehem has been providing hope for God's people throughout the ages. Thus, at the dawn of a new year filled with many substantive challenges, we have cause for genuine hope.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Cold December Flies Away"
Sue Crocker, organ

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 and Invocation (responsive)¹

Lynn Lingafelt

LEADER: For all who give you a face, Lord Jesus, by spreading your love in the world, we praise you.

PEOPLE: **For all who give you hands, by doing their best toward their sisters and brothers, we praise you.**

LEADER: For all who give you a mouth, Lord Jesus, by defending the weak and the oppressed, we praise you.

PEOPLE: **For all who give you eyes, by seeing every bit of love in the heart of man and woman, we praise you.**

LEADER: For all who give you a heart, Lord, Jesus, by preferring the poor to the rich, the weak to the strong, we praise you.

PEOPLE: **For all who give to your poverty the look of hope for your Reign, we praise you.**

LEADER: For all who reveal you simply by what they are, Lord Jesus, because they reflect your beauty in their lives, we praise you. You who are the God of a thousand faces, yet whom nothing can reveal completely except the face of the child of Bethlehem, we pray to you:

PEOPLE: **Continue in our lives the mystery of Christmas. Let your Son become flesh in us so that we may be for all our brothers and sisters the revelation of your love.**

1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this;
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save;

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 he has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lynn Lingafelt

⁷For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

John 1:1–18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Unison

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3. O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him, an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing,
 4. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior
 powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried

end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been,
 of our race; and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 God and King; let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 ev - ery voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

The Sermon

“The Prospects for Hope in a New Year”

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Musical Reflection

“There’s a Song in the Air”
Tonya Carter, soloist

Josiah Holland

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

“In Thee Is Gladness”
Sue Crocker, organ

JS Bach

†Lucien Deiss, 20th century French Catholic liturgist, ©1976, 1981. Used courtesy of Chalice Press, St. Louis, MO.

The tune and text of “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” and “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” are in the public domain.

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God calls us to reconcile ourselves to him and to each other. How do we do this in a world filled with deep disagreements and conflicts that continually strain many personal, familial, and community relationships? This winter in Centerpoint, we will be exploring what it means to seek reconciliation in our relationships with each other, our larger community, and God. We will start with a two-part Bible study led by our pastor, Dr. Christopher Chapman. From there, Dr. Andrew Manis will lead us in a reflection on racial reconciliation. Andrew M. Manis is Professor Emeritus of History at Middle Georgia State University. An ordained Baptist minister with a PhD from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he is the award-winning author of *Southern Civil Religions in Conflict, A Fire You Can’t Put Out, Macon Black and White*, and most recently, *Eavesdropping on the Most Segregated Hour: A City’s Clergy Reflect on Racial Reconciliation*. We will build on the discussion with Dr. Manis in February through a two-part series where we will discuss the book/movie *Just Mercy*. We encourage you to rent the movie or read the book in January.

Our annual stewardship emphasis continues 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 December 29, we have received 160 pledges totaling \$1,094,441 for the 2021 budget.

There is no better gift than to share the love of Jesus Christ to the world. One hundred percent of our offering sends CBF field personnel to share this love both here at home and in foreign lands. When we give to the offering for Global Missions, we help plant new churches and share the hope of Christ with people who have never heard the Gospel, we offer food and teach children how to succeed in school, and help refugees adapt and thrive in their new homes. Please give prayerfully to the CBF Global Mission Offering. As of December 29, we have received \$7,030.

Calendar Highlights • January 3–9, 2021

Sunday, January 3

- 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)

Tuesday, January 5

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Wednesday, January 6

- 6:15 Centerpoint (Zoom)

Thursday, January 7

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)