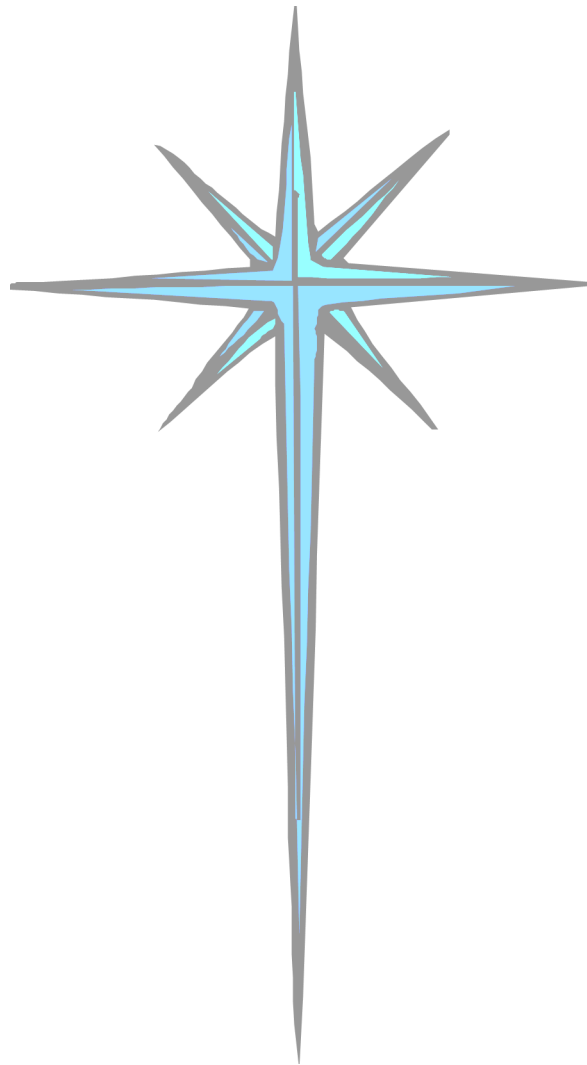


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 10, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the first Sunday after Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord in the Christian year. It is also the day we ordain first-time deacons in normal times, but given the safety measures required during the current pandemic, we will postpone that ritual while recognizing these deacons today through liturgy. The theme of this season is the revelation of God's light and love to the whole world, as signaled by the Epiphany story about magi from a distant land coming to worship the Christ-child. The story of Jesus' baptism is always included, as it marks the beginning of his ministry, his journey of revealing light and love. As we seek to follow in his path, we examine this story a bit more carefully and reflect on the experience of baptism in the early church, looking for clues about the nature of our calling. It has many dimensions, and there is much joy along the way, but the basic calling is unsettling and awe-filled because we are immersed not simply into water but into Christ and thus an entirely new way of being.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Bourée from Water Music Suite"
Sue Crocker, organ

Telemann, arr. Curt Oliver

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 29

LEADER: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

PEOPLE: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

LEADER: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

PEOPLE: **The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

LEADER: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign forever.

PEOPLE: **May the Lord give strength to God's people! May the Lord bless God's people with peace.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease,
 3. He breaks the power of can-cel-ed sin, he sets the pris - on-er free;
 4. He speaks, and lis-tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;
 5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace.
 'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 his blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re-joice; the hum-ble poor be - lieve.
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 1:1-5

Leah Reed

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

Mark 1:4–11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. O Love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
 2. For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3. For us he prayed, for us he taught, for us his
 4. For us to e - vil power be-trayed, scourged, mocked, in

thought and fan - ta - sy: that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us tempt - ta - tions
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and
 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us the tempt - er o - ver-threw.
 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 cross and death, for us gave up his dy - ing breath.

5. For us he rose from death again;
 for us he went on high to reign;
 for us he sent his Spirit here
 to guide, to comfort, and to cheer.

6. All glory to our Lord and God
 for love so deep, so high, so broad—
 the Trinity whom we adore
 forever and forevermore.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”†

HYFRYDOL

1. God the Spir - it, guide and guard - ian, Wind - sped flame and
 2. Christ our Sav - ior, sov - ereign, shep - herd, Word made flesh, love
 3. Great Cre - a - tor, life - be - stow - er, Truth be - yond all
 4. Tri - une God, mys - te - rious be - ing, Un - di - vid - ed

hov - ering dove, Breath of life and voice of proph - ets, Sign of
 cru - ci - fied, Teach - er, heal - er, suf - fering ser - vant, Friend of
 thought's re - call, Fount of wis - dom, womb of mer - cy, Giv - ing
 and di - verse, Deep - er than our minds can fath - om, Great - er

bles - ing, power of love: Give to those who lead your peo - ple
 sin - ners, foe of pride: In your tend - ing may all ser - vants
 and for - giv - ing all: As you know our strength and weak - ness,
 than our creeds re - hearse: Help us in our var - ied call - ings

fresh a - noint - ing of your grace; Send them forth as
 learn and live a shep - herd's care; Grant them cour - age
 so may those the church ex - alts O - ver - see her
 your full im - age to pro - claim, That our min - is -

bold a - pos - tles To your church in ev - ery place.
 and com - pas - sion Shown through word and deed and prayer.
 life stead - fast - ly Yet not o - ver - look her faults.
 tries u - nit - ing May give glo - ry to your name.

The Litany of Blessing and Commitment for First-Time Deacons (responsive)

Dolores Bailey, Nick Bradley, Randall Burnette, Cindy DeFoor, J.D. Rhodes, and Daniel Rohrbaugh

LEADER: According to scripture, the first deacons were chosen to make sure that everyone was cared for, that no one was left out, that widows were visited and food was distributed (Acts 6:1-7). In your service as a deacon, will you seek to care for all, and in the process, model the way of caring for others?

DEACONS: In the grace of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we will seek to follow Christ in this way.

LEADER: According to Jesus, whoever wishes to be great among his followers must be a servant, and whoever wishes to be first must be a slave of all. For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many (Mark 10:43-44). In your role as a leader, will you seek the way of service, of putting others first, of giving more than receiving?

DEACONS: In the grace of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we will seek to follow Christ in this way.

LEADER: According to the Apostle Paul, each of us has been given grace to the measure of Christ's gift, and each of our gifts has been given to equip the saints for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:7, 11-12). In your ministry in and through First Baptist Church, will you seek to use your distinctive array of gifts for these noble purposes and thus nurture this community and bring honor and glory to God?

DEACONS: In the grace of God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we will seek to follow Christ in this way.

LEADER: Then, may you sense the strength of God's companionship every day on the journey, may you recognize the faith in you this church has expressed, and may you hear, each in your own way, the same voice of blessing Jesus heard when he arose from the waters of baptism, saying, "You are my beloved child with whom I am well pleased!" (Mark 1:11)

The Prayer of Blessing

Matt Bullard

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

"Harlequinade from Water Music Suite" Telemann, arr. Curt Oliver
Sue Crocker, organ

During the postlude, photos will be displayed of first-time deacons and the other ten new deacons coming on the diaconate this year: Maria Childrey, Margaret Clary, Jud DeBra, Leah Filomena, Greg Flowers, Art Jackson, Keith Lewis, Lacey Pegram, Karen Poteat, and Debbie Willmschen.

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The tune and text of “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” and “O Love, How Deep, How Broad” are in the public domain.

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Sympathy to Thomas and **Wiley Blackburn** on the December 31 death of their mother, **Peggy Blackburn**, and to Ed and Joe Preston on the January 4 death of their mother, **Dot Preston**.

As we continue our Centerpoint series on reconciliation, Dr. Chapman will lead the second part of a two-week Bible Study on January 13. On January 20, 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 January 7, we have received 164 pledges totaling \$1,101,041 for the 2021 budget.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. As of January 7, we have received \$12,580.

Calendar Highlights • January 10–16, 2021

Sunday, January 10

- 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)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)

Monday, January 11

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 7:00 Adult Ministry Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 12

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

Wednesday, January 13

- 6:15 Centerpoint (Zoom)

Thursday, January 14

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)