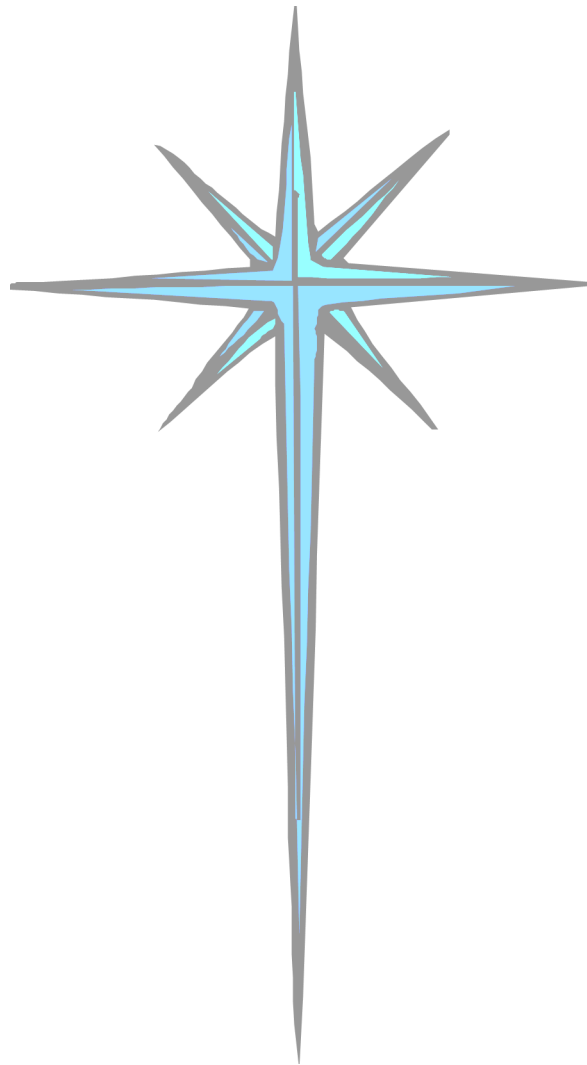


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 17, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 17, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the second Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we ponder our calling to share God's light and love with the whole world. It is also the weekend in which our nation honors the prophetic ministry of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. These two themes are tightly connected and woven into this service at a time in our national life which seems to be crying out for light and love and for some prophetic word. We read texts of prophetic calling, sing hymns that call us to a larger view of Christian life, and offer prayers for a world much in need of God's grace and truth. The sermon, which is rooted in the reading from 1 Samuel, explores the nature of prophetic calling and how we discern who the genuine prophets are. In a time of many loud, competing voices, how do we know who is speaking for God? Many times only history can say for sure, but scripture provides clues to guide us in our discernment. We identify and ponder those clues today as we seek to honor God with all that we have and are, and listen for God's voice.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Dove of Peace"
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. Philip M Young

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 139

LEADER: O God, you have searched me and known me.

PEOPLE: **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

LEADER: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

PEOPLE: **Even before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely.**

LEADER: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

PEOPLE: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

LEADER: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

PEOPLE: **If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

LEADER: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

PEOPLE: **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

LEADER: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

PEOPLE: **even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

LEADER: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

PEOPLE: **See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
 who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy’s perfect deed:
 we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
 consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;
 still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.
 As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light
 in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
 making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
 stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
 to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
 hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,
 that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Samuel 3:1–20

Michael Hood

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Litany for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (responsive)²

Lynn Lingafelt

LEADER: We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King Jr. that “freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray for courage and determination for those who are oppressed.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s warning that “a negative peace which is the absence of tension” is less than “a positive peace which is the presence of justice.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s insight that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s lament that “the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church’s silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray that neither this congregation nor any congregation of Christ’s people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is God’s call to us.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s hope that “dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”

The Morning Prayer

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 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
 3. Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us— free our
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

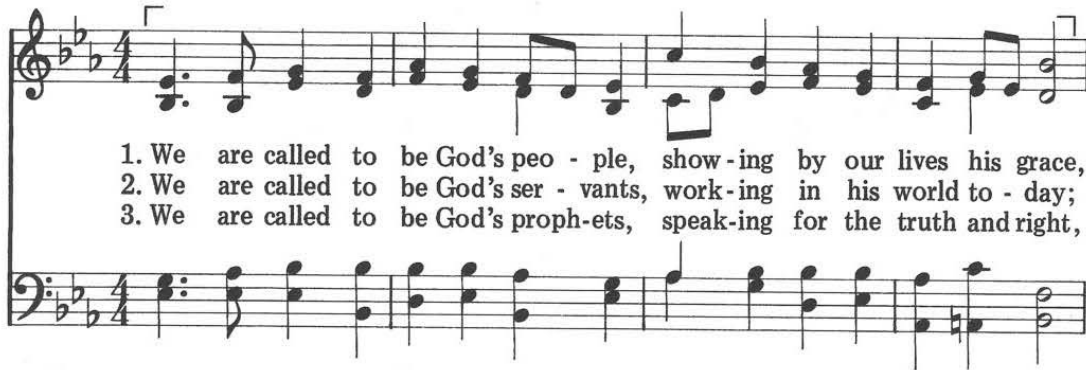
for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”³

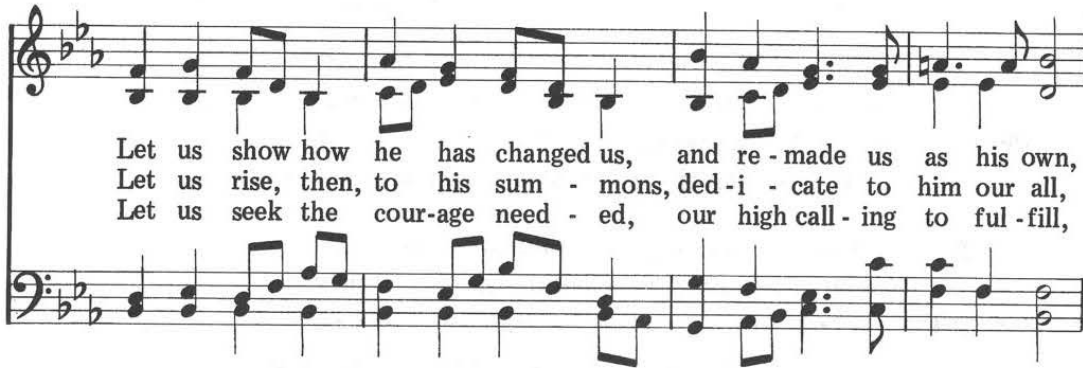
AUSTRIAN HYMN



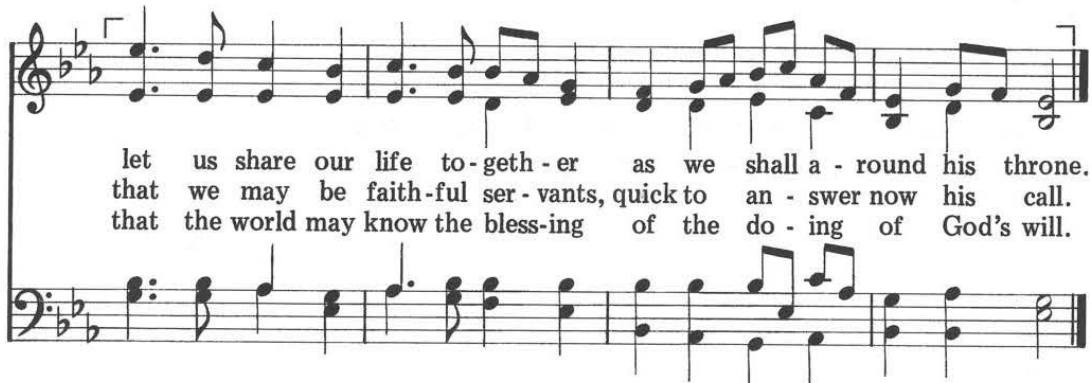
1. We are called to be God’s peo - ple, show - ing by our lives his grace,
2. We are called to be God’s ser - vants, work - ing in his world to - day;
3. We are called to be God’s proph - ets, speak - ing for the truth and right,



one in heart and one in spir - it, sign of hope for all the race.
tak - ing his own task up - on us, all his sa - cred words o - bey.
stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, bring - ing e - vil things to light.



Let us show how he has changed us, and re - made us as his own,
Let us rise, then, to his sum - mons, ded - i - cate to him our all,
Let us seek the cour - age need - ed, our high call - ing to ful - fill,



let us share our life to - geth - er as we shall a - round his throne.
that we may be faith - ful ser - vants, quick to an - swer now his call.
that the world may know the bless - ing of the do - ing of God’s will.

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

“Praeludium in B Minor”
Sue Crocker, organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

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As we continue our Centerpoint series on reconciliation, 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 14, we have received 168 pledges totaling \$1,114,741 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 14, we have received \$13,635.

Calendar Highlights • January 17–22, 2021

Sunday, January 17

- 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)
- 7:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, January 18

Church Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Tuesday, January 19

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

Wednesday, January 20

- 6:15 Centerpoint (Zoom)

Thursday, January 21

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)