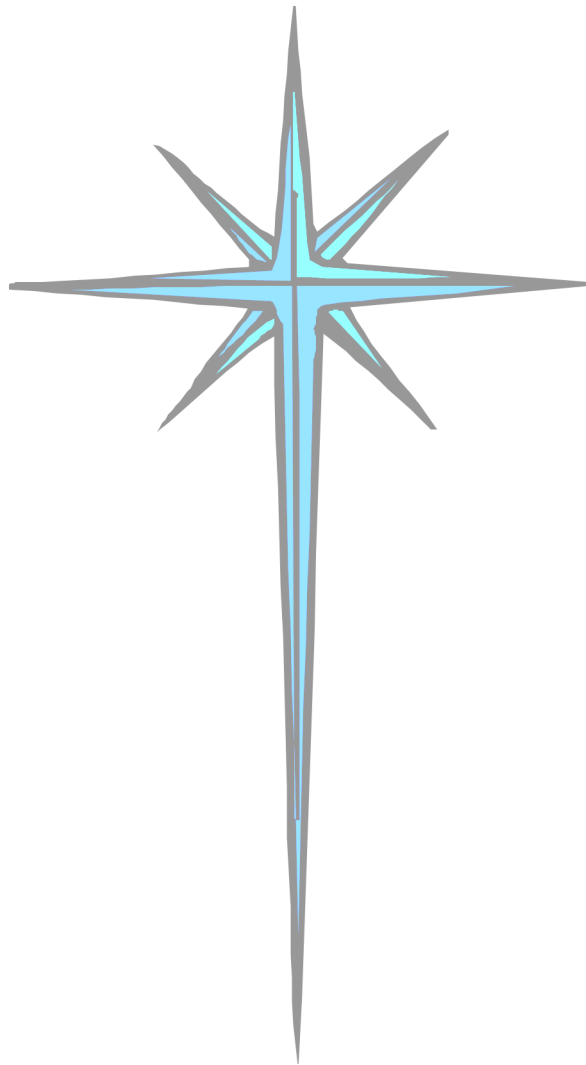


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 31, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 31, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, part of a season of reflection on the revelation of God's light and love to the whole world. There is a sense of joy that permeates this season yet also an undercurrent of tension, as we embrace both the privilege and the responsibility of participating in this endeavor. Today we examine a reading from Mark that contains straightforward details about the beginning of Jesus' ministry that we might seek to emulate, particularly when it comes to teaching. But this story also contains details that are more difficult to assess. They concern the presence, activity, and removal of unclean spirits; matters we tend to ignore, dismiss, or interpret away; yet matters that appear often in the biblical material and offer insight into the broader concepts of good and evil which we still embrace. How do we make sense of these realities today; is there still such a thing as evil; and if there is, how do we challenge it, in Jesus' strong name (to use the hymnwriter's language)? We not only reflect on these questions, we pray for guidance and sing songs of praise to the God who strengthens us for the task.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Prelude on *Slane*"
Sue Crocker, organ

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)

from Psalm 111

LEADER: Praise the Lord!

PEOPLE: **I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

LEADER: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

PEOPLE: **Full of honor and majesty is God's work, whose righteousness endures forever.**

LEADER: The works of God's hands are faithful and just; the precepts of the Lord are trustworthy.

PEOPLE: **They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

LEADER: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

PEOPLE: **God's praise endures forever.**

The Invocation

Michael Hood

Unison

1. God of cre - a - tion, all - power - ful, all - wise, Lord of the
 2. God of the a - ges, through time's trou - bled years you are the
 3. God of re - demp - tion, who wrought our re - birth, called out your
 4. God of your peo - ple, your Word still stands fast— do for us
 5. God of our now, all our trust is in you, Cov - en - ant -

u - ni - verse rich with sur - prise, Mak - er, Sus - tain - er, and
 One in whom his - tory co - heres; na - tions and em - pires your
 Church from the ends of the earth, still you are Sav - ior— put
 now as you've done in the past! Yours is the King - dom—your
 God, ev - er faith - ful and true; Sov - ereign Cre - a - tor, Re -

Rul - er of all, we are your chil - dren— you hear when we call.
 pur - pose ful - fill, mov - ing in free - dom, yet work - ing your will.
 dark - ness to flight; o - ver - come sin by sal - va - tion's pure light!
 tri - umph we claim, chal - leng - ing e - vil in Je - sus' strong name.
 deem - er and Lord, now and for - ev - er your name be a - dored!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Lynn Lingafelt

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Morning Prayer

Leah Reed

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 1:21–28

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Solo

“In Heavenly Love Abiding”
Rhonda Lowe, soprano; Becky Mercer, flute

Bob Burroughs

The Sermon

“Challenging Evil in Jesus’ Strong Name”

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well”²

BROTHER JAMES’ AIR

1. The Lord my Shep - herd guards me well, and all my wants are fed:
2. Though I should walk in dark - est ways through val - leys like the grave,
3. For me a ta - ble has been spread where all my foes can see;
4. Your stead-fast love will fol - low me to shield me all my days

a - mid green pas - tures made to lie, be - side still wa - ters led.
no e - vil shall I ev - er fear; your pres - ence makes me brave.
you bathe my head with fra - grant oil to soothe and hon - or me.
and bring me to your ho - ly house, re - deemed from er - ror's ways,

My care-worn soul grows strong and whole when God's true path I tread.
On my be - half your rod and staff as - sure me you will save.
My heart and cup are both filled up with joy - ful ec - sta - sy.
my whole life long to join the song of those who sing God's praise.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The time signature is 3/2. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

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

“Little Prelude in F”
Sue Crocker, organ

JS Bach

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The rose on the altar is in celebration of the January 25 birth of Alexander McLean Maloney, son of Annie and Dan and little brother to George.

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 28, we have received 173 pledges totaling \$1,128,741 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 28, we have received \$13,635.

Calendar Highlights • January 31–February 6, 2021

Sunday, January 31

- 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)
- 5:30 Youth Parent Check-In (Zoom)
- 6:30 Youth Group (Zoom)
- 7:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 2

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

Wednesday, February 3

- 6:15 Centerpoint Book/Movie Discussion: *Just Mercy* (Zoom)

Thursday, February 4

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 8:30 Parenting Seminar for Children’s Families (Zoom)