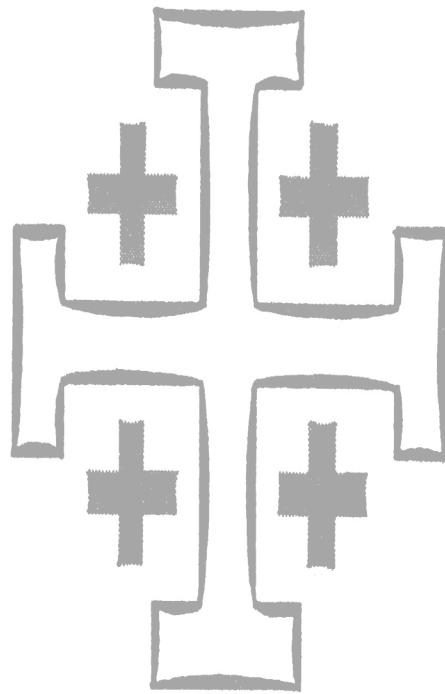


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 28, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on the way to the cross. We continue with an exploration of a series of texts from the Hebrew canon about various covenants God has established, examining the relationship of each to the New Covenant we experience in Christ. The reading from Genesis 17 describes the covenant God establishes with Abram and Sarai. This couple and their descendants are chosen, which evokes a sense of privilege, but they are chosen for a purpose — to bless others — and this evokes a sense of responsibility. The balance between these two dimensions of chosenness parallels what we experience in Christ. We are saved, redeemed, made whole, by grace and grace alone, but in response to our experience of grace, we are called to a life of service and love. As Jesus puts it in the reading from Mark 8, we are called to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him. We lift up words and songs of praise to the God who invites us into such a magnificent relationship, we confess our struggles to embrace all that it involves, and we go forth relying upon grace and seeking to invite others into this covenant God intends for all.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Hymn of Promise”
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. John Ferguson

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 22

LEADER: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

PEOPLE: **in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

LEADER: You who fear the Lord, praise God!

PEOPLE: **All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God; stand in awe!**

LEADER: For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

PEOPLE: **God did not hide from me, but heard when I cried out for help.**

LEADER: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

PEOPLE: **those who seek the Lord shall sing praise!**

LEADER: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

PEOPLE: **and all the families of the nations shall worship before God.**

LEADER: For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

PEOPLE: **To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down.**

LEADER: Posterity will serve the Lord; future generations will be told about the Lord,

PEOPLE: **and proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that God has done it.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

1. The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove,
 2. He by him - self hath sworn, we on his oath de - pend;
 3. The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,
 4. The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love.
 we shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heaven as - cend;
 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" cry, "Al - might - y King!
 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry.

Je - ho - vah, great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:
 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,
 Who was and is the same, and ev - er - more shall be:
 Hail, A - braham's God and mine! With heaven our songs we raise;

we bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er - more.
 e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."
 all might and maj - es - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Michael Hood

The Prayer of Confession (unison)¹

**Covenant-making God, you call us by name,
transforming our past into your future.**

We confess that sometimes we laugh at your call, believing it to be impossible.

We protest, insisting that you should conform to our way.

**We ignore your voice, refusing to admit to anyone what we have heard,
instead going about our lives as if we heard nothing.**

Forgive us, O God, and speak our names once again.

Change our hearts and our lives, until we are able to trust your promise.

We pray in the name of the One whose name is above all names, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The Act of Praise

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

ARISE

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

I will a-rise and go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms;
in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O, there are ten thou - sand charms.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Lynn Lingafelt

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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.**

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Before the cross of Jesus our lives are judged today;
 the meaning of our eager strife is tested by his Way.
 Across our restless living the light streams from his cross,
 and by its clear, revealing beams we measure gain and loss.

The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back,
 our will to dare great things for God, the courage that we lack,
 the faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure,
 on all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear, and sure.

Yet humbly, in our striving, O God, we face its test;
 we crave the power to do your will with him who did it best;
 on us let now the healing of his great Spirit fall,
 and make us brave and full of joy to answer to his call.

Ferdinand O. Blanchard, 1929

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“The Privileges and Responsibilities of Chosenness”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Musical Response

“My Song Is Love Unknown”²

arr. John Leavitt

Elaine Holley, violin

My song is love unknown, my Savior’s love for me;
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be:
but who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Here might I stay and sing of him my soul adores;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like yours!
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman, 1664

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

“Cortege”

Flor Peeters

Sue Crocker, organ

¹From LiturgyLink.net, Rev. Teri Peterson

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The tunes and texts of “The God of Abraham Praise,” “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy,” and “Before the Cross of Jesus” are in the public domain.

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The rose on the altar is in celebration of the February 22 birth of Vivian Grace Rohrbaugh (“Vivi”), daughter of Daniel and Laura and little sister of Crosby.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. As of February 25, we have received \$15,450.

Calendar Highlights • February 28–March 6, 2021

Sunday, February 28

- 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)
- 4:00 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 6:30 Youth Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 2

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 6:15 Middle School Gathering (Ellis home)
- 6:30 High School Boys Bible Study (Carter home)
High School Girls Bible Study (Helms home)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 3

- 5:30 Preschool Missions and Music (Bissette yard)
- 6:15 Centerpoint: *Reflections on the Past Year* (Zoom)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, March 4

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 12:00 Race and Housing Discussion (Zoom)
- 7:30 College Gathering (Zoom)