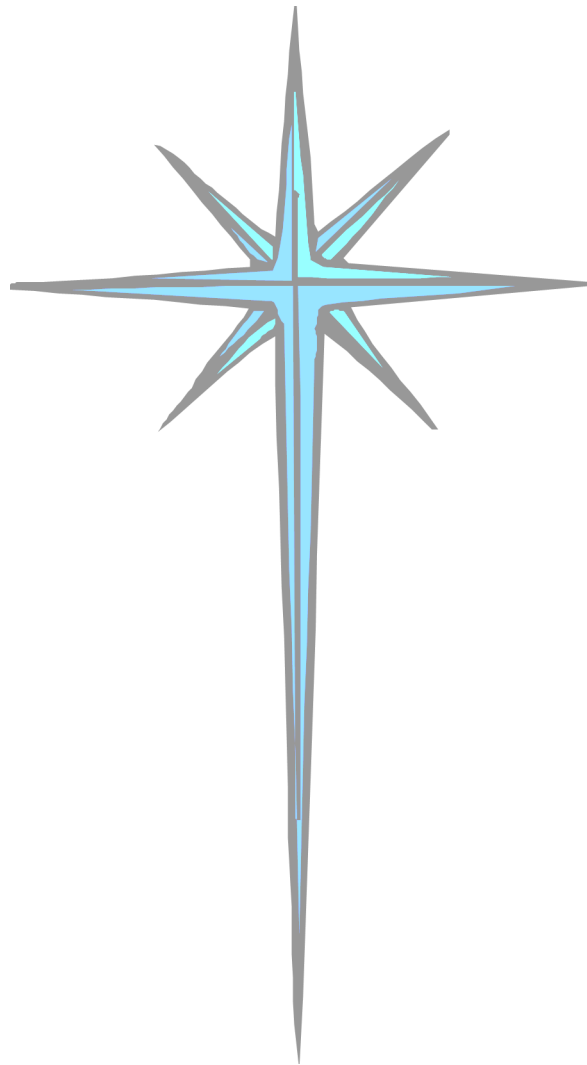


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 7, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 7, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, a season of reflection upon what it means for God's love in Christ to be revealed to the whole world. After centering ourselves during the prelude, we begin with the words of Psalm 147 which remind us that God has always been about the work of healing the brokenhearted and binding wounds. God is always worthy of our highest praise. We then sing a hymn of praise and listen for God's voice speaking to us through three readings and through some children of the church who are assisting with worship leadership today. The sermon, which is based on the readings from 1 Corinthians and Mark, explores the biblical calling to put the needs of others before our own — something the Apostle Paul does in sharing the Good News and something Jesus does not only in this reading but throughout his life and ministry. Any faithful witness to God's love in Christ for the whole world begins with a focus on others. We conclude worship by celebrating communion — a ritual that reminds us how interconnected our lives are — aided by the beauty of a violin, and singing a hymn which pleads with Jesus to fill us with love and show us how to serve our neighbors. Thus, we are sent into the world to fulfill the calling of this season and all seasons, to share God's love in Christ with all.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Gift of Finest Wheat"
Sue Crocker, organ

Jeffery Honore

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 147

LEADER: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God.

PEOPLE: **For God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

LEADER: The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers the outcasts of Israel.

PEOPLE: **God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

LEADER: God determines the number of the stars, and gives to all of them their names.

PEOPLE: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; whose understanding is beyond measure.**

LEADER: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, but casts the wicked to the ground.

PEOPLE: **Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.**

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your
 2. Praise Him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple
 3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and
 4. An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,
 fears he knows. In his hands he gen - tly bears us,
 face to face. Sun and moon bow down be - fore him;

ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 40:21-31

Michael Hood

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Morning Prayer

Lynn Lingafelt

The Lord's Prayer

Third–Fifth Grade Sunday School Class

**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 1:29–39

Carter Pegram,
Caroline Davis, Luke Foster

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Musical Meditation

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Beth McCollum, violin

arr. Fred Bock

The Sermon

"It's Not All About Us"

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread is Broken

The Cup is Shared

"Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing"

Beth McCollum, violin

arr. Marianne Kim

Refrain

Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

D. C.

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 white, neighbors are near and far a - way.
 love, all these are neighbors to us and you.
 slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

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

“Toccata Festiva”
Sue Crocker, organ

Gordon Young

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The 3rd – 5th Graders leading the Lord’s Prayer are: Hunter Talley, Alice Strickland, Addie Bacon, CeCe Bissette, Ethan Moore, Campbell Jackson, Bella Kumah, Lucy Willis, Parker Carothers, Macon David, Catherine Yelverton.

Sympathy to **Valerie Cumbea** on the February 1 death of her grandmother, Nettie Cumbea.

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 February 4, 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 February 4, we have received \$13,635.

Calendar Highlights • February 7–13, 2021

Sunday, February 7

- 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)
- 3:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds–Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 6:30 Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, February 8

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 9

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

Wednesday, February 10

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

Thursday, February 11

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)