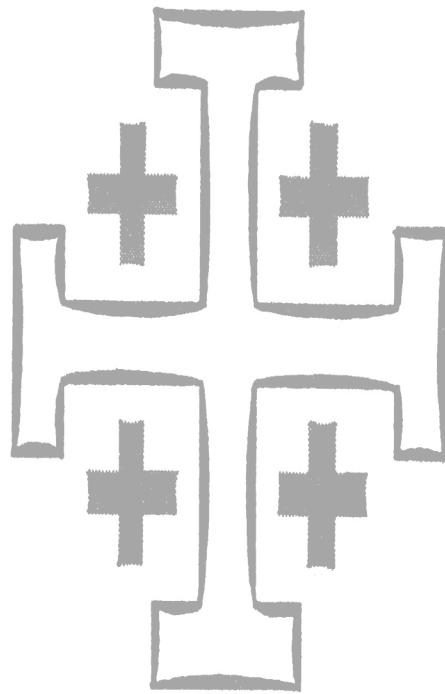


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 21, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on a journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross falls more heavily on our worship the closer we get to Holy Week and Good Friday. "Lift high the cross," we sing, "O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end." The texts point in this direction as well, as in the reading from John, Jesus compares his journey to a grain of wheat that must fall to the earth and die before bearing much fruit. The sermon explores the nature of our new covenant with God made possible in Christ, not through the Gospel reading but through the reading from Jeremiah. The ancient Hebrew prophet speaks of a new covenant with God that sounds very much like the one we experience in Christ, one made possible by the cross. This should not come as a surprise. We are talking about the same God who has always longed to relate to God's people in a deeply personal way. Knowing this, "How can we keep from singing?" as the musical response proclaims.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ"
Sue Crocker, organ

J.S. Bach

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)¹

LEADER: The hour comes, and now is, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with my people.

PEOPLE: **It shall not be written upon tablets of stone, but upon the tablets of the heart.**

LEADER: We shall no longer instruct our neighbors from a book.

PEOPLE: **They shall no longer need any teacher but the Lord.**

ALL: **Waken our ears, O Lord, and speak to us the words of your covenant.**

The Invocation

Lynn Lingafelt

Unison

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

Fine

all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Parts

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, our
 2. O Lord, once lift - ed on this glo - rious tree, as
 3. For Thy blest cross which doth for all a - tone, cre -
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

D.C.

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 Thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to Thee.
 a - tion's prais - es raise be - fore Thy throne.
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Michael Hood

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

from Psalm 51

LEADER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

PEOPLE: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

LEADER: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

PEOPLE: **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.**

(silent confession)

LEADER: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

PEOPLE: **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

LEADER: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

PEOPLE: **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

(silent confession)

LEADER: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

PEOPLE: **Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

LEADER: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

PEOPLE: **and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

(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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "I will a-rise and go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O, there are ten thou - sand charms." The lyrics are printed below the notes.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Leah Reed

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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

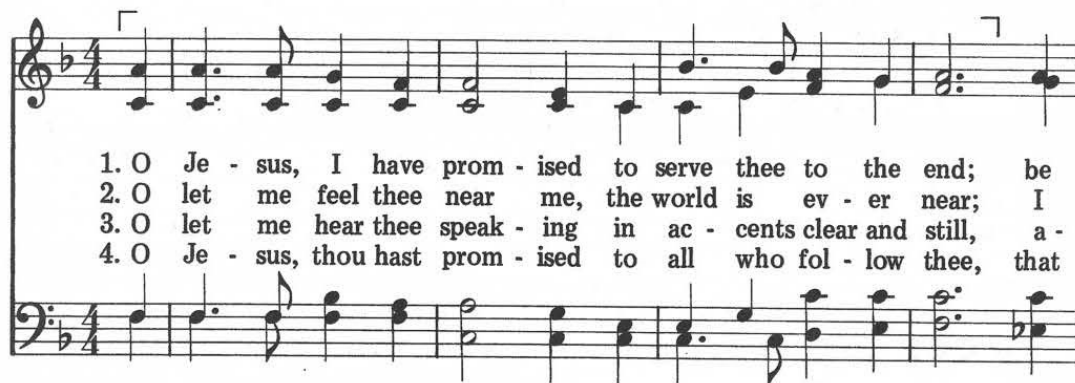
John 12:20–33

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

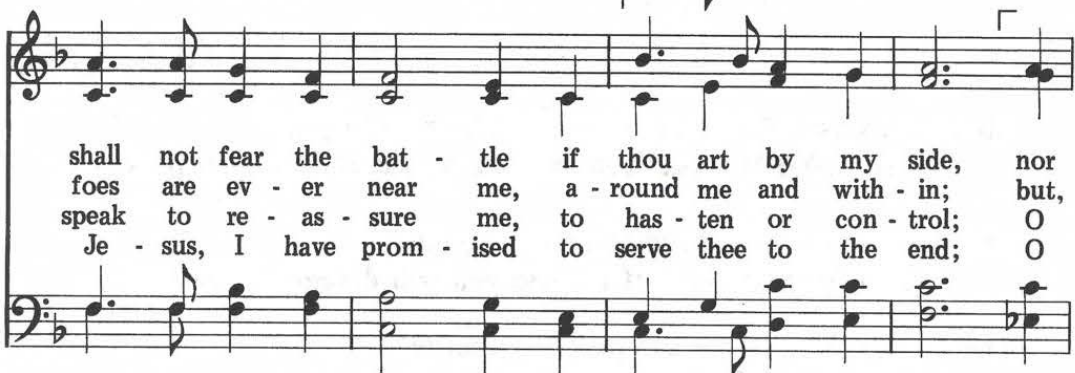
PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**



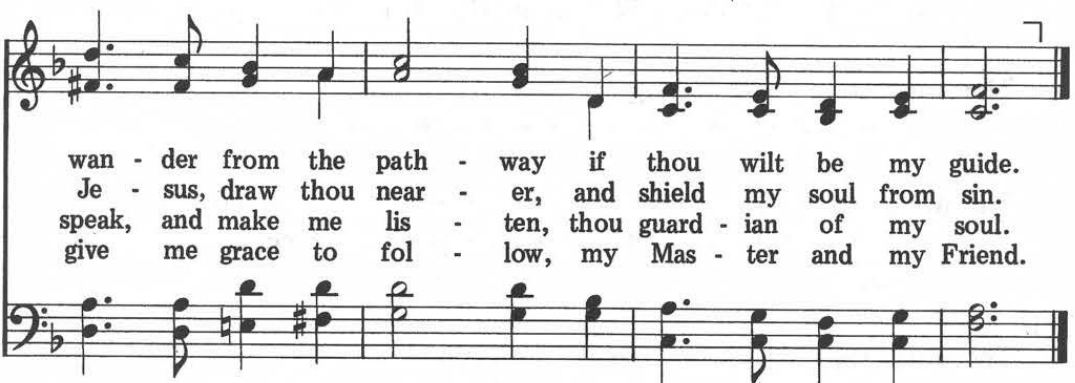
1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end; be
 2. O let me feel thee near me, the world is ev - er near; I
 3. O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still, a -
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee, that



thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my Friend: I
 see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear: my
 above the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will. O
 where thou art in glo - ry, there shall thy serv - ant be; and,



shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side, nor
 foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in; but,
 speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol; O
 Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end; O



wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Musical Response

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”
Becky Mercer, flute

arr. Marianne Kim

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

“If We Could Only Let God Guide Us”
Sue Crocker, organ

J.S. Bach

¹From *Litanies and Other Prayers for the Common Lectionary, Year B*, by Everett Tilson and Phyllis Cole, Copyright © 1990 by Abingdon Press. Reprinted by permission.

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Sympathy to Sarah David on the March 14 death of her father, John Woodard.

Easter is Sunday, April 4. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of Easter lilies for our sanctuary, with the remaining funds benefitting the Day Mission Fund. Forms — found on our website or by following the link in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Wednesday, March 24.

There will be a virtual Church Conference via Zoom on Wednesday, March 24, at 5:30 p.m. The link and more information may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Those needing assistance should contact Deborah Mastrodonato (dmast@fbcraleigh.org).

You are invited to join us for worship in person on Easter Sunday, April 4, for an outdoor service at the Fred Fletcher Park Amphitheater (820 Clay Street, 27605). There will be 3 service times — 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., and the number of attendees is limited to 50 people at each gathering. Sign-up is required to attend, along with masks and social distancing. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9aa2eabfa7-easter>. Parking is available along the street or in a parking lot on Washington Street. Bring your own chair or blanket to sit on, as chairs will not be provided. There will also be a pre-recorded service from the Sanctuary on our YouTube channel at 11:00 a.m. This will be our rain plan, if the outdoor services are canceled due to weather. If the weather looks questionable, we will make a call early on Sunday morning and send out a mass email to keep you informed.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. As of March 18, we have received \$17,485.

Calendar Highlights • March 21–27, 2021

Sunday, March 21

- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
- 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- High School Sunday School (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 10:30 Japanese Worship (301/302)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)
- 2:00 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 3:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 5:30 Deacons Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, March 22

- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 23

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library)
- Facilities Assessment Meeting (FH)
- 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 24

- 5:30 Church Conference (Zoom)
- Preschool Music and Missions (Bissette yard)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, March 25

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 12:00 FBC Preschool Easter Egg Hunt (Garth)
- 7:30 College Gathering (Zoom)