

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 25, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, a season in which we celebrate the good news of resurrection and ponder its implications for our lives and world. We begin worship with an introit provided by our children whose presence alone provides hope, and then the responsive reading of Psalm 23, using the translation of our own beloved Elmo Scoggin, whose entire life was a testimony to hope and perseverance. We sing hymns of praise, offer prayers of healing, and hear texts of hope. The sermon explores the juxtaposition of two claims found in our readings today — one from Acts, one from John. The claims — one exclusive, the other inclusive — seem contradictory, such that we might be tempted to embrace one and ignore the other. But such binary thinking, all too common in our time, is quite often not the best way to proceed. How might we embrace both of these texts and their claims, and thus give witness to a God who is always beyond our categories of thought? The resurrection itself defies simple interpretive approaches. The good news is too good for mere mortals to comprehend fully. Rather, we gaze in wonder and amazement, in gratitude and praise.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Cantilena”  
Sue Crocker, organ

Stanley Vann

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 Introit

“Christians, We Have Met to Worship”  
1st–5th grade Music Makers; Becky Mercer, flute

Traditional

The Call to Worship (responsive)<sup>1</sup>

Psalm 23

LEADER: The Lord God Ineffable is the one guiding my life; therefore, I lack nothing.

PEOPLE: **He stretches me out comfortably in beautiful grassy meadows.**

LEADER: He guides me unerringly to deep pure water.

PEOPLE: **He constantly renews my whole being and guides me gently into righteous paths because of what His name means.**

LEADER: Furthermore, when I must walk through the valley of uncharted death shadows, I will not fear calamity because You are right beside me,

PEOPLE: **the rod of Your authority and the staff of Your support bring me constant comfort.**

LEADER: You keep setting a banquet table before me, contrary to my enemies.

PEOPLE: **You have anointed my brow with healing oil, my cup is overflowing full.**

LEADER: For certainty, goodness and mercy {the heavenly hounds} will pursue me {sniff out my trail} all the days of my life;

PEOPLE: **thus I shall dwell in the house of the Lord God Ineffable forever.**

The Invocation

Michael Hood

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -  
 2. What God's al - might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is  
 3. We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our  
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -  
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace  
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the won -

sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and  
 er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there  
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who  
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the

ev - ery grief he gen - tly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 4:5–12

Lynn Lingafelt

<sup>5</sup>The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 John 3:16–24

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

Leah Reed

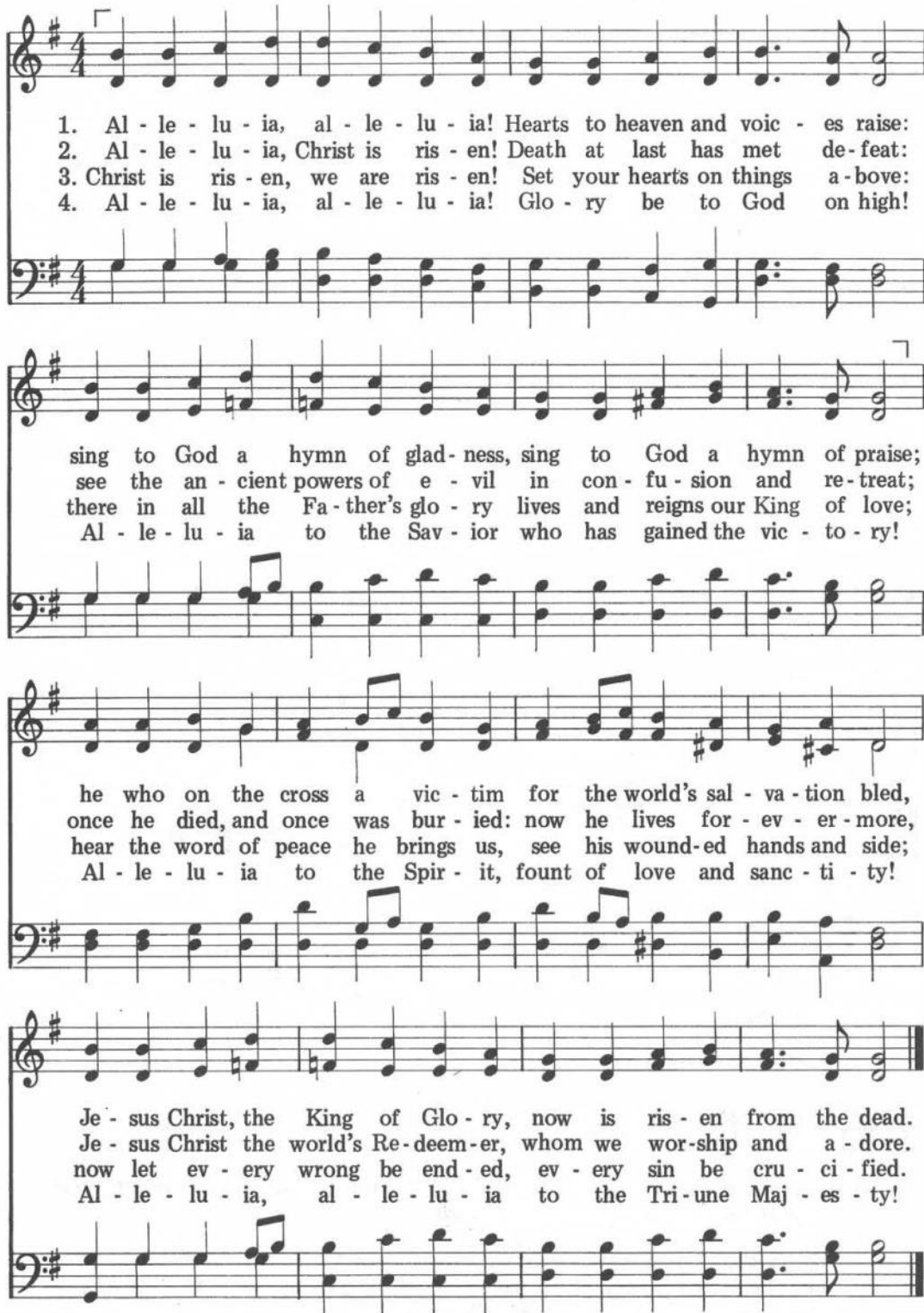
The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
 3. Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove:  
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high!

sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;  
 see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;  
 there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry!

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled,  
 once he died, and once was bur - ied: now he lives for - ev - er - more,  
 hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.  
 Je - sus Christ the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.  
 now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

WELLESLEY

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;  
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;  
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,  
there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.  
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.  
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

The Affirmation of Faith

Divine Kumah

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

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

arr. Stephen Johnson

Sue Crocker, organ

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<sup>1</sup>The translation of Psalm 23 is by longtime beloved FBC member, Dr. Elmo Scoggin.

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The tunes and texts of “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” and “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” are in the public domain.

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Today’s Worship Helpers are Logan and Charley Teague.

We are grateful for the assistance of pianist Rhonda Lowe.

Sympathy to **Lynn Loomis** on the April 19 death of her father, Wilton Wheeley.

Beginning the first Sunday in May, we will begin allowing up to 100 people in worship. We are also beginning to think about a plan to allow more groups to meet at the church, including the possibility of rotating Sunday School classes using only the larger rooms. See upcoming issues of the *Rose Window Weekly* for details about protocols and sign-up procedures!

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### **Calendar Highlights • April 25–May 1, 2021**

#### Sunday, April 25

- 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 (Ellis yard)  
Meeting of High School Seniors (Church parking lot)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Church parking lot)

#### Monday, April 26

- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, April 27

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

#### Wednesday, April 28

- 5:30 1st–5th Grade Girls Music & Missions (Wade yard)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

#### Thursday, April 29

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 7:30 College Group (Zoom)

#### Saturday, May 1

- 11:30 GA Tea (Wade yard)