

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 16, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventh Sunday of Easter and the closest Sunday to the Ascension of our Lord (May 13 this year). The texts are taken from this latter emphasis which shapes many elements of this service. The sermon, which is rooted in the reading from Acts 1, examines the first disciples' challenge of living in a time of significant transition from having the resurrected Christ present with them to watching him ascend to heaven and thus experiencing his absence while waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is a time that stirs powerful and conflicting emotions, a time that raises many questions, yet also a time when Jesus offers words of assurance, guidance, and instruction. Like the first disciples, we are living in a time of transition from the full isolation of a pandemic to a gradual process of moving toward a new kind of normal experience. We too experience powerful and conflicting emotions, we too ask many questions, we too long to hear Jesus' words of assurance, guidance, and instruction.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

The Prelude

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"
Sue Crocker, organ

Paul Manz

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 47

LEADER: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

PEOPLE: **For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great Ruler over all the earth.**

LEADER: God chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.

PEOPLE: **God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

LEADER: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

PEOPLE: **Sing praises to our Ruler, sing praises!**

The Invocation

1. Re-joyce, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -
 2. The Lord the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when
 3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
 4. Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and

joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev - er - more: lift up your
 he had purged our stains he took his seat a - bove: lift up your
 keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given: lift up your
 take his serv - ants up to their e - ter - nal home. Lift up your

heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!
 heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!
 heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!
 heart, lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Leah Filomena

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

“Just As I Am”
Beth McCollum, violin

arr. Beth McCollum

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

Luke 24:44–53

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Unison

1. A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the
 2. The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of
 3. O Lord, our home-ward path-way bend that our un - wear - ied
 4. O ris - en Christ, as - cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let

world shall ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be -
 Ol - ives stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful
 hearts as - cend, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! where, seat - ed on your
 earth ac - cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. Al-le - lu - ia!
 fol-lowers see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty. Al-le - lu - ia!
 Fa-ther's throne, you reign as King of kings a - lone. Al-le - lu - ia!
 a - ges run, with Fa-ther and with Spir - it one. Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Prayer of Response (unison)

Like the first disciples, O God, we often find ourselves gazing into heavens, passively waiting for you to do something to change our world. Like them, we ask questions born of genuine interest yet shrouded in misunderstanding. Yet in all things, like those first followers of Jesus, we mostly seek some word of assurance and direction. Heighten our awareness of your presence that we may realize we are never alone. Empower us through the work of your Spirit to continue Jesus' work in this world. Grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may see with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, and know the hope to which we have been called, what are the riches of our glorious inheritance among all the saints. In the name of the Christ who is above all rule and authority and power and dominion, in this age and in the age to come, we pray, amen.

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

1. Al - le - lu - ia, sing to Je - sus! his the scep - ter, his the throne:
2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;
3. Al - le - lu - ia! heav-enly High Priest, here on earth our help, our stay;

Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri-umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone.
Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves nor ques-tions how.
Al - le - lu - ia! hear the sin - ful cry to you from day to day.

Hark! the songs of peace-ful Zi - on thun-der like a might-y flood.
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er,
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, earth's Re-deem-er, hear our plea,

Je - sus, out of ev - ery na - tion, has re - deemed us by his blood.
shall our hearts for-get his prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys-tal sea.

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 Creatures of Our God and King"
Sue Crocker, piano

arr. Ken Kersecker

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The Deacon on Call is Leah Filomena. Leah was baptized at First Baptist in 1997 and was a member until she left for school in 2006, returning in 2011. She is a member of the Grains of Sand class. She and her husband Tony have one child, Evie.

Our acolytes today are Parker and Claire Carothers.

The sanctuary flowers are placed by Nancy and Bobby Phillips in memory of all FBC members and extended family members who were lost this past year.

Sympathy to Chris Hoover on the May 10 death of his mother, Gloria Hoover.

With our return to in-person services, if you would like to donate flowers or designate your selection of our banners with a donation to the Day Mission Fund, please contact Myra Brickell at 919-812-6680 or myrabrickell@gmail.com.

Be in prayer for the 14 high schoolers and four chaperones who will be travelling to the Christmount Retreat Center in Black Mountain on Friday, May 21, returning on Sunday, May 23.

Please join the Minister of Music Search Committee and the Organist/Music Assistant Search Committee as they introduce our candidates for each of these positions on Saturday, May 22. Then on Sunday, May 23, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a special church conference via Zoom to consider these recommendations from the search committees. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for details and for the links to sign up for the meet-and-greet and to sign in to the Zoom conference.

Class of 2021, congratulations! We want to recognize your accomplishments, and celebrate these milestones alongside each of you. If you or someone you love is graduating from college, we would like to have the following information for our church's publications. Please email Deborah Mastrodonato (dmast@fbcraleigh.org) the graduate's name, college, degree, and your relationship to the graduate. All responses are needed by Friday, May 28.

Calendar Highlights • May 16–22, 2021

Sunday, May 16

- 9:00 Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School (Zoom)
- 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 Service (301/302)
- 11:00 Worship Service (Sanctuary & 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)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Church parking lot)
- 7:00 Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, May 17

- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 18

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
High School Bible Study (Helms home)
ITC Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 19

- 11:00 Clothing Ministry Donations Collection (Fellowship Hall/Clothing Ministry)
- 5:30 Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, May 20

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

Friday, May 21–Sunday May 23

High School Retreat (Christmount Retreat Center, Black Mountain)

Saturday, May 22

- 10:00 Meet the Candidates — Handbell ringers and music lay leaders (301/302/Zoom)
- 11:30 RA Car Race (Church parking lot)
- 1:00 Meet the Candidates — Adult choir (301/302/Zoom)
- 2:00 Meet the Candidates — Church-wide meet-and-greet (Garth)
- 3:00 Meet the Candidates — Church-wide meet-and-greet (Garth)
- 4:00 Meet the Candidates — Church-wide meet-and-greet (Garth)