

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 23, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
PENTECOST

May 23, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Pentecost, the day when Spirit is poured out upon the faithful in Jerusalem. It is a day with previous significance in Judaism, Shavuot, The Feast of Weeks, which commemorates the giving of the law to Moses at Mount Sinai. Pentecost is a High Holy Day in the Christian year, a day when we celebrate the gift of Spirit and the birth of the church. Thus, the hymns and other worship music offer joyful thanks to God for these gifts of grace. The stoles we wear are red, symbols of the tongues of fire that allow the people to hear the gospel in different languages (a reality we experience in worship today), and the descending dove on each stole represents Spirit who is given to the church. The streamers and flowers offer a visual element to our celebration, as we seek to offer praise to God with all our being. The sermon explores the implications of the Acts 2 story for the church today. If this experience marks the beginning of church, what might we conclude about it? There are many possibilities, but all point to a reality much bigger than we can imagine in terms of who makes up the church and what our purpose in the world is.

We welcome to worship leadership today Warren and Maureen Howell, candidates for our roles of Minister of Music and Organist/Music Assistant. Their biographical information is available on the members-only section of the church website and in the church office. A special church conference will be held today via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. to hear a recommendation from the search committees.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

JD Rhodes, Rhonda Lowe

The Prelude

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”
Maureen Howell, organ

arr. Joe Utterback

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

“Jubilation Fanfare”
The Evening Bells

Sandra Eithun

LEADER: Spirit of God, we have gathered together in this place to pray and to make ourselves ready for your coming.

PEOPLE: **Give us faith, that when you come like the wind, though we do not see you, yet we may hear what you are saying to us and discern your movement.**

LEADER: Give us courage, that we may not fear the tongues of flame:

PEOPLE: **let all that is unworthy, impure, and sinful be burned from our lives. May we know that it is love that burns so brightly and love that strips away our sin.**

LEADER: Give us an open mind, Lord, that the truth you bring may make its home with us:

PEOPLE: **truth to set us free, truth to guide us and inform us, truth to lead us in the way of your will.**

LEADER: Give us an open heart, Lord,

PEOPLE: **that we may seek all people for your realm, and set no limits to the proclaiming of your word.**

LEADER: Holy Spirit, with the whole church we wait for you in every place and in every generation.

PEOPLE: **Come, wind. Come, fire. Come, truth. Come, love. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
The peo - ple all a - round them were start - led and a - mazed
God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
on wo - men, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing, in - spired each per - son there.
That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
so peo - ple of all na - tions glad songs of joy shall raise.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 2:1–21

Greg Flowers

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Romans 8:22–27

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

²⁶When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Solo

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"
 Warren Howell, baritone

Joe Cox and Jody Lindh

*Come, Holy Spirit, heav'nly Dove, with all your quick'ning powers;
 Kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold hearts of ours.
 See how we trifle here below, fond of our earthly toys;
 Our souls, how heavily they go to reach eternal joys.*

*In vain we tune our formal songs, in vain we strive to rise;
 Hosannas languish on our tongues, and our devotion dies.
 Come, Holy Spirit, heav'nly Dove, with all your quick'ning powers;
 Kindle a flame of sacred love in these cold hearts of ours.*

— Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

The Sermon

"The Church Is Bigger Than We Think"

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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.

*The Hymn of Discipleship

“The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA

1. The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,
4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
5. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion, by wa - ter and the word:
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schisms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed:
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more,
and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won:

from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - ery grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

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

“Fugue in C Major”
Maureen Howell, organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

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The Deacon on Call is Greg Flowers. Greg is a 25-year member of First Baptist and a member of the Unity Sunday School Class and the Sanctuary Choir. He and his wife Marchelle reside in Raleigh.

Our acolytes today are Lucy and Ryan Willis.

The worship assistants helping lead the Pentecost processional and recessional are: Megan Archer, CeCe Bissette, Claire Carothers, Parker Carothers, Carter Pegram, and Jesse Vogel.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Harold and Frances Rhodes and Henry and Stennett McLeod by Bob, Mary Powell, JD, and Sarah Catherine Rhodes.

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 are returning from the Christmount Retreat Center in Black Mountain today.

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 23–29, 2021

Sunday, May 23

- 9:00 Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School (Zoom)
- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 11:00 Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 2:00 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 5:30 **Called Church Conference** (Zoom)
Youth Group (Church parking lot)

Monday, May 24

- 5:30 Deacons Meeting (Zoom)
- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 25

- 8:30 WakeMed Meal Packing (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
High School Bible Study (Helms home)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 26

- 12:00 PreK Graduation (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 Church Conference (Zoom)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, May 27

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