

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 9, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter, part of a season in which we celebrate the good news of resurrection and reflect upon all that it means for us. On this second Sunday back with in-person worship, after fourteen months of livestreaming only during COVID-19, we continue to experience Easter hope in a very practical way. We also keep in place safety measures — remaining masked, keeping six feet apart, not passing an offering plate but having plates available in the narthex and gathering room — in an effort to care for each other and contribute to the health of our community. The elements of this service are shaped by an image Jesus introduces in the reading from John for himself and thus God too. It is the image of friend. Of all the images we have for the Divine, this simple one may be the most disarming and inviting. No single image can contain the fullness of God, but each authentic image tells us something important. This image points to the manner in which God in Christ seeks to relate to us, as well as the way we are called to relate to each other. How can we not be moved to worship by an Eternal Being who chooses to set aside all power and authority to walk alongside us and call us friends?

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

The Prelude

“Reflection on *Beach Spring*”
Sue Crocker, organ

Philip Young

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)

Psalm 98

LEADER: O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things. God’s right hand and holy arm have gotten the victory.

PEOPLE: **The Lord has declared victory, and has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.**

LEADER: The Lord has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

PEOPLE: **All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

LEADER: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

PEOPLE: **break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

LEADER: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

PEOPLE: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Lord who reigns.**

LEADER: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

PEOPLE: **the world and those who live in it.**

LEADER: Let the floods clap their hands;

PEOPLE: **let the hills sing together for joy**

LEADER: at the presence of the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.

PEOPLE: **The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

The Invocation

Michael Hood

*The Hymn of Praise

“Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty”¹

BEACH SPRING

Lavish love, abundant beauty, gracious gifts for heart and hand,
life that fills the soul and senses—all burst forth at your command.
Lord, our Lord, Eternal Father, great Creator, God and Friend:
boundless power gave full expression to your love which knows no end.

Who am I that you should love me, meet my every need from birth?
Why invest yourself so fully in a creature made of earth?
In your loving heart you planned me, fashioned me with greatest care;
through my soul you breathed your Spirit, planted your own image there.

I am yours, Eternal Father, all my body, mind and heart.
Take and use me to your glory, form yourself in every part.
Lord, your love brings joy and gladness flowing forth within my soul.
May my very breath and being rise to you, their source and goal.

Peter Ellis, 1986

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 10:44–48

JD Rhodes

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 John 5:1–6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 15:9–17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Solo

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
Tom Childrey, baritone

arr. Dale Wood

The Sermon

"Friendship with God and Each Other"

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.

Refrain
 Unison

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

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

Fine

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors 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, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love, all these are neigh-bors 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

"A Festive Toccata"
Sue Crocker, organ

Martin Setchell

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The Deacon on Call is JD Rhodes. JD is 10+ year member of First Baptist Church and a member of the Adult Choir. He also helps teach 7th and 8th grade Sunday School.

Our acolytes today are Will and Cady Mercer.

The Sanctuary Flowers are placed by Dennis Francis and Rhonda Lowe in honor of all mothers and in memory of their nephew, Corporal David Sonka and MPC Flex, who died in Afghanistan May 4, 2013.

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.

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 9–15, 2021

Sunday, May 9

- 9:00 Everett 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)
- 11:00 Worship Service (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 2:00 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00 Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Church parking lot)

Monday, May 10

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 8:00 Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 11

- 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 12

- 5:30 Bell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- Preschool Music & Missions (Bissette yard)
- 7:00 Youth Movie Night (Disney+ Teleparty)

Thursday, May 13

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

Saturday, May 15

- 11:00 Clothing Ministry Donations Collection (Fellowship Hall/Clothing Ministry)
- 4:00 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)