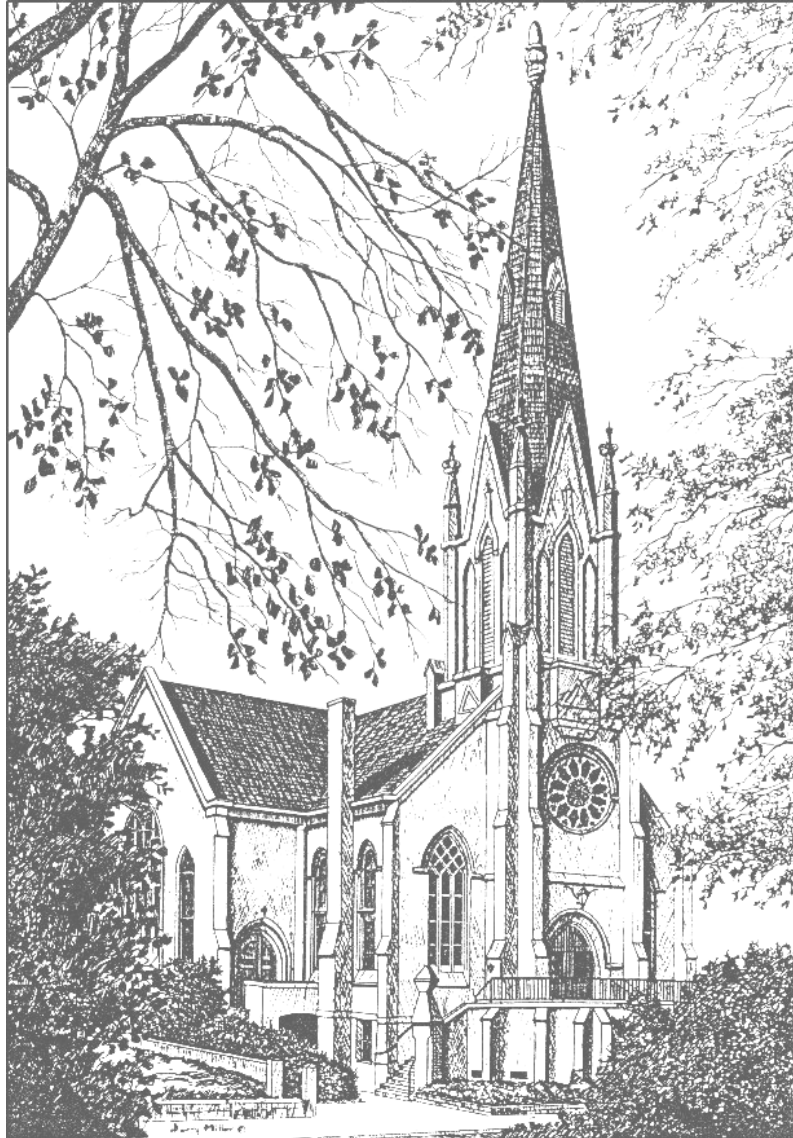


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 13, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 13, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the third Sunday after Pentecost, a season where we celebrate the Spirit's movement in the Church and broader world. We continue to gather as a congregation that is partially together, and we trust that God's communal presence will meet us wherever we find ourselves. We are delighted to welcome back the choir as they lead us in worship for the first time in fifteen months. In today's sermon, we'll hear a familiar, challenging parable that Jesus used to describe the kingdom of God. As we consider the mustard seed approach to faith, how does this change the way we view our responsibility in this upside-down kingdom? If we consider the unleashed, unhinged nature of the Spirit, we'll soon realize that this kind of garden cannot be contained to our own response or understanding. The celebration of communion reminds us that the act of sharing the bread and the cup binds us together as a human family where all are cherished, welcomed, and included. If you are joining us virtually, we ask that you prepare the elements of communion at home so that you are able to participate in this celebration.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers Lynn Lingafelt

The Processional "Shall We Gather at the River" arr. Dale Wood
Sue Crocker, organ

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 "The Gathering" Ken Medema

The Call to Worship (responsive) from Psalm 92

LEADER: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

PEOPLE: **to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.**

LEADER: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

PEOPLE: **The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

LEADER: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

PEOPLE: **In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
 2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find,
 3. The night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say,
 4. Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal song

to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus. Christ be praised!
 My com - fort still is this, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 when this sweet chant they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Cara Lynn Vogel

²²Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Morning Prayer

Lynn Lingafelt

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

Mark 4:26–34

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Unison

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
 2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be
 dy; there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -
 ty. In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -

be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Musical Reflection

"Let Us Break Bread"

Ken Medema

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

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

"I Come with Joy"²

DOVE OF PEACE

Unison

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, for-giv-en, loved and
2. I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di-vi-sion
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. his pres-ence, al-ways
5. To-geth-er met, to-geth-er bound, we'll go our dif-ferent

free, in awe and won-der to re-call his
fed, the new com-mun-i-ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend-ship bet-ter known; we
ways, and as his peo-ple in the world, we'll

life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
Christ's com-mun-ion bread, in Christ's com-mun-ion bread.
stran-gers now are friends, and stran-gers now are friends.
see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.
live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction Leah Reed

The Benediction Response “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” William Tomer

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 “O God, Beyond All Praising” arr. David Cherwein
Sue Crocker, organ

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The Deacon on Call is Cara Lynn Vogel. A 33-year member, Cara Lynn serves as the Vice Church Moderator and the Vice Chair of Deacons. She also serves on the Denominational Relations Committee and is a member of The Journey Sunday School class. She and her husband, Jamie have one son, Jesse.

The sanctuary flowers are gratefully given in loving memory of O. H. and Madge Dillard by their family. Sympathy to DeLeon Turnage on the June 6 death of his brother, Earl Turnage.

It is with great joy that The Sanctuary Choir returns to the loft for worship. After much discussion with the Risk Management team and the staff it was decided that the choir, for now, could sing from the loft, unmasked, as long as all participating had been vaccinated.

Dr. Chapman is on vacation through June 20. In his absence, Leah Reed is preaching today and Michael Hood will preach next Sunday.

Calendar Highlights • June 13–20, 2021

Sunday, June 13

- 9:00 Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School (Zoom)
- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
 7th & 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
 High School Sunday School (Carter Home)
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube) — Communion

Monday, June 14

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, June 15

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group II (Springmoor)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 16

- 7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, June 17

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

Sunday, June 20

- 9:00 Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School (Zoom)
- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
 7th & 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
 High School Sunday School (Blue Room)
- 10:30 Japanese Worship (301/302)
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Blue Room)