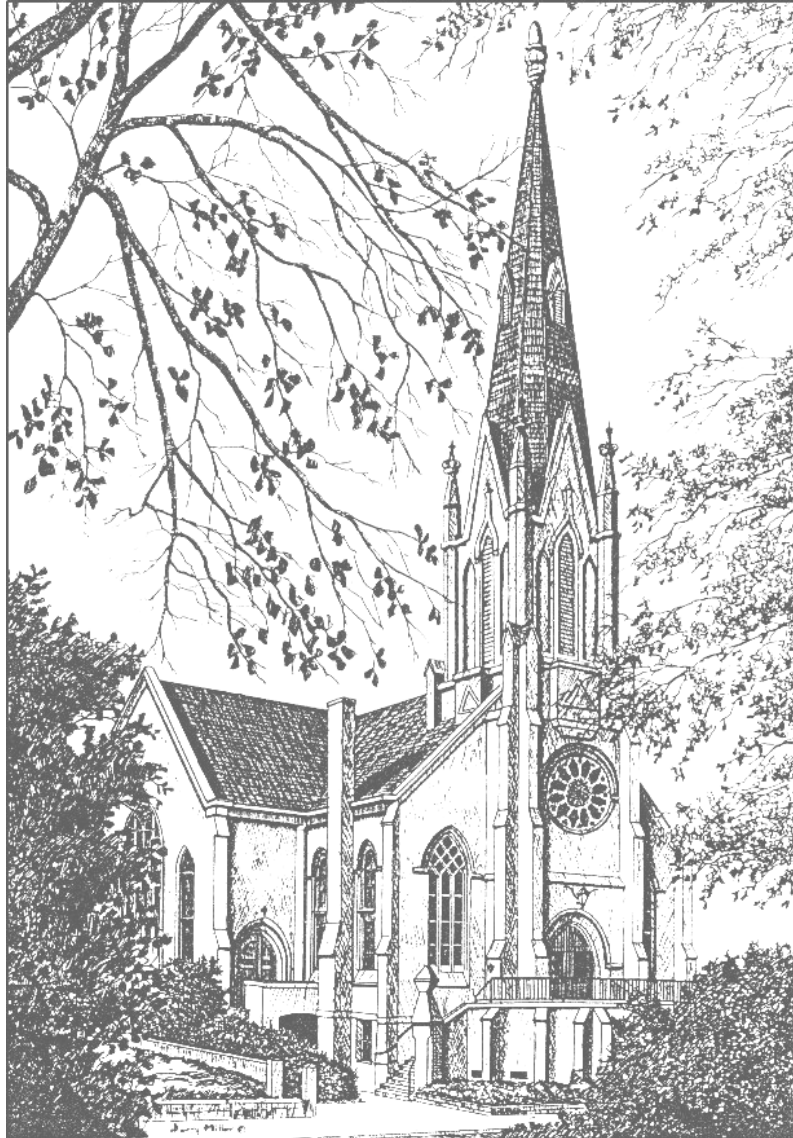


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 11, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 11, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, part of a season in the Christian year called ordinary time. Unlike other seasons which focus on specific parts of Jesus' experience — birth, baptism, death, resurrection, ascension — this season focuses on growth (thus we wear green stoles) and it does so in the context of continuous readings from different parts of scripture. Today's texts include two references to dancing — one in which dance is worshipful and life-giving, the other in which dance contributes to death. While reading the texts together provides a reminder that most aspects of life can be used for good or evil, the sermon focuses on the reading from 2 Samuel in which dance is a part of authentic worship. This story names dance as a sacred gift while making a broader claim — that there is a time and place for celebration. As the movement of the ark, a sign of God's holy presence, to Jerusalem appropriately gives rise to singing and dancing, there are occasions in our lives that call for such celebration. The sermon explores the possibility of this being such an occasion, the music and liturgy are celebratory, and we conclude the service with a joyful observance of communion, a genuine celebration of the reality that we remember a Savior who not only dies for us but is also raised to give us hope for eternal life!

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

The Prelude

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"
Maureen Howell, organ

arr. John A. Behnke

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 24

LEADER: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

PEOPLE: **for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

LEADER: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in God's holy place?

PEOPLE: **Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

LEADER: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

PEOPLE: **Such is the company of those who seek God, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

The Invocation

Michael Hood

1. God is here! As we his peo - ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep-herd's flock and fold;
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of change and doubt,

may we find in ful - ler meas-ure what it is in Christ we share:
 here are ta - ble, font and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place:
 here, as bread and wine are ta - ken, Christ sus-tains us as of old;
 keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out;

here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 here in hon - es - ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence as in speech,
 here the ser-vants of the Ser-vant seek in wor-ship to ex - plore
 here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of his Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here in new-ness and re - new - al God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! we be - lieve.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

2 Samuel 6:1-19

Karen Poteat

¹ David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³ They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵ David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

⁶ When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen shook it. ⁷ The anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God struck him there because he reached out his hand to the ark; and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸ David was angry because the Lord had burst forth with an outburst upon Uzzah; so that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day. ⁹ David was afraid of the Lord that day; he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come into my care?" ¹⁰ So David was unwilling to take the ark of the Lord into his care in the city of David; instead David took it to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹¹ The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months; and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

¹² It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³ and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴ David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. ¹⁶ As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷ They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. ¹⁸ When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹ and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Choral Response to the Gospel

arr. John L. Bell

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"²

Goodness is stronger than evil;
 Love is stronger than hate;
 Light is stronger than darkness;
 Life is stronger than death
Victory is ours through God who loves us.

The Sermon

"A Time and Place for Celebration"

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*The Hymn of Devotion

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”³

LINSTEAD



Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he
Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy; bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share,



Refrain

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where.



earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Musical Reflection

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.

1. This is the three-fold truth on which our faith de-pends;
 2. Made sa-cred by long use, new-mint-ed for our time,
 3. On this we fix our minds as, kneel-ing side by side,
 4. By this we are up-held when doubt or grief as-sails,
 5. This is the three-fold truth which, if we hold it fast,

and with this joy-ful cry wor-ship be-gins and ends:
 our lit-ur-gies sum up the hope we have in him:
 we take the bread and wine from him, the cru-ci-fied:
 our Chris-tian for-ti-tude, and on-ly grace a-vals:
 chang-es the world and us and brings us home at last:

Christ has died! Christ is ris-en! Christ will come a-gain!

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction⁵

Be blessed, you who dance, for God dances with you.
 Be blessed, you who grieve, for God grieves with you.
 Be blessed, you who go from here both grieving and dancing,
 For surely, the Lord accompanies you in praise and promise,
 Leading the way into the redeeming presence of God forevermore. Amen.

*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

"And All Shall Sing, and All Shall Dance"
 Maureen Howell, organ

Gilbert M. Martin

¹Words: Copyright © 1979 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-708116.

²Desmond Tutu, ©1995.

³Words, Music: Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-708116.

⁴Words, Music: Copyright © 1980 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-708116.

⁵Warren Howell, *Faithement Resources for Worship: July 11, 2021*; faithement.net.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Deacon on Call is Karen Poteat. A 25-year member of First Baptist, Karen serves as chair of the Japanese-Cultural Exchange Committee, is a leader for the Grades 3–5 GAs, and is a member of the Formations Sunday School class. She and her husband Will have three sons— Zachary, Jacob, and Isaac—and one daughter, Olivia.

The sanctuary flowers are given by Rebecca, Ellen, and Lawrence Clayton in thankfulness for the birth of Ivie Lawrence Clayton 101 years ago, July 12, 1920–2021. A life well-lived.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Our goal is \$10,000, to be split as needed between Habitat for Humanity and RISE Against Hunger; as of July 8, we have received \$360.

Clothing Ministry volunteers are invited to an orientation and training session on Wednesday, July 28, from 11am-1pm with a BBQ bag lunch from *And Also With 'Cue!* We will walk through the new space, go over new polices and procedures, and celebrate the reopening of this beloved ministry together. RSVP through the link found in the *Rose Window Weekly* by Monday, July 19!

We are in need of one greeter at the back parking lot door from 9:15-10:15am to stand and offer welcome and to remind congregants to sign in and wear their masks in the common areas. Please sign up through the link found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Questions? Contact Crystal Bacon at crystal.bacon3@gmail.com.

Be in prayer for the 28 youth and chaperones going on the trip to Kure Beach, departing today and returning Thursday, July 15.

Calendar Highlights • July 11–18, 2021

Sunday, July 11

Youth Trip to Kure Beach (returning Thursday, July 15)

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)

Monday, July 12

1:30 Housing All Fund Training (Library/Pullen Memorial Church)

Tuesday, July 13

10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

10:45 WMU Group II (Springmoor)

Wednesday, July 14

7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, July 15

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

6:30 College Group (Zoom)

Friday, July 16

8:00 Senior Night (Sanctuary)

Sunday, July 18

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)

5:30 Youth Group (FH/Blue Room)