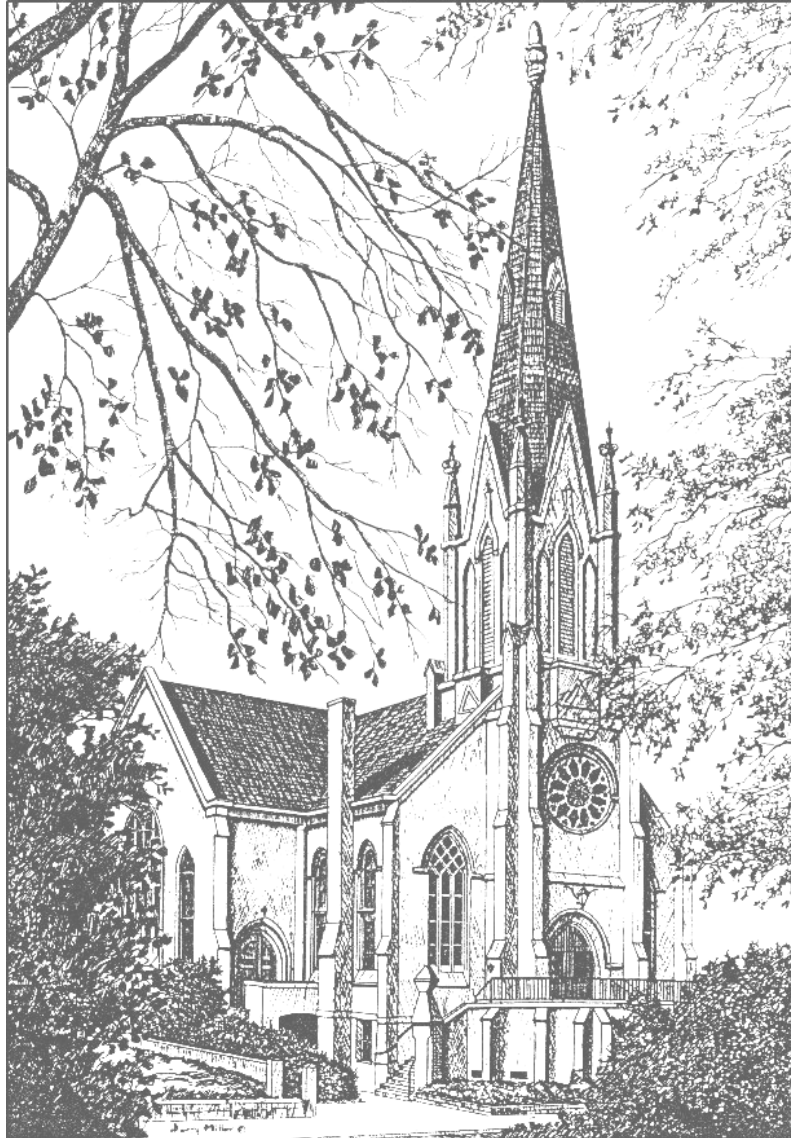


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 15, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called ordinary time in the Christian year. As we continue with historical narratives from the Hebrew canon and the extended bread of life discourse from John 6, there is a central theme that runs through all of our texts — the pursuit of wisdom. The reading from John is the only text that does not explicitly mention wisdom or understanding, but the strange language of eating Jesus' flesh and drinking his blood is a metaphor for relating to Jesus in a deeply personal way. Such a relationship is the beginning of wisdom for Jesus' followers. The sermon focuses on the reading from Ephesians which urges us to avoid foolishness and seek wisdom. Both sides of this counsel have merit, but since Baptists are often known for what we are against, it may prove helpful for our witness to focus on what we are for. Our worship, full of songs of praise and prayers for the world, provides an example of the kind of things we are for, things we do every week — honor God, enrich the lives of others, and seek guidance for how to live wisely and make the most of our time.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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 Prelude

"Piano Prelude on *Ellacombe*"
arr. Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell, piano

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 111

LEADER: Praise the Lord!

PEOPLE: **I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

LEADER: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

PEOPLE: **Full of honor and majesty is God's work, whose righteousness endures forever.**

LEADER: The works of God's hands are faithful and just; the precepts of the Lord are trustworthy.

PEOPLE: **They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

LEADER: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

PEOPLE: **God's praise endures forever.**

The Invocation

1. I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,
2. I sing the good - ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
3. There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes your glo - ries known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
he formed the crea - tures with his word and then pro - nounced them good.
and clouds a - rise and tem - pests blow by or - der from your throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule by day;
Lord, how your won - ders are dis - played wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor - rows life from you is ev - er in your care,

the moon shines full at his com - mand and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery - where that I may be, you, God, are pres - ent there.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14

Divine Kumah

¹⁰Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹²So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

³Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 5:15–20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Iona Community

Leader: Be still and know that I am God. Be still and

All: Be still and know that I am God.

know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am 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.**

The Gospel

John 6:51–58

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. All the way my Sav - ior leads me; what have I to ask be - side?
 2. All the way my Sav - ior leads me, cheers each wind - ing path I tread,
 3. All the way my Sav - ior leads me; O the full - ness of his love!

Can I doubt his ten - der mer - cy, who through life has been my guide?
 gives me grace for ev - ery tri - al, feeds me with the liv - ing bread;
 Per - fect rest to me is prom - ised in my Fa - ther's house a - bove;

Heaven - ly peace, di - vin - est com - fort, here by faith in him to dwell,
 though my wea - ry steps may fal - ter, and my soul a - thirst may be,
 when my spir - it, clothed im - mor - tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

for I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well;
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see;
 this my song through end - less a - ges, "Je - sus led me all the way";

for I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see.
 this my song through end - less a - ges, "Je - sus led me all the way."

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

“Be Thou My Vision”²

SLANE

Unison

1. Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
 2. Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word, I ev - er
 3. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach

else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought, by
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou on - ly,
 heav-en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what-

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 first in my heart, high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.
 ev - er be - fall, still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Choral Charge

“Love Ye One Another”³

Sanctuary Choir

Shaker Song, arr. Kevin Siegfried

Holy, holy, holiness unto the Lord.
Love ye, love ye, love ye one another.

*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

“Festival Fanfare”

Maureen Howell, organ

Malcolm Archer

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³Shaker Songs, Keven Siegried arr., ©1999 *earthsongs*. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-708116.

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The Deacon on Call is Divine Kumah. A four-year member, Divine is in the Grains of Sand Sunday School class and is a substitute teacher for the First and Second Grade Sunday School class. He and his wife Erika have two daughters, Bella and Olivia.

The acolytes today are Brooks and Brayden Joyce.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Jerry H. Stevens and Rolin Ashton Stevens by Berti Stevens and family.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the August 6 birth of Anthony Patrick Filomena IV, son of Tony and Leah Filomena, brother of Evie, and grandson of Tara Mann and John Shell.

Be in prayer for the 30 members of the Wilderness Class, who are going on retreat to Pipestem, WV, this Friday, August 20, and returning on Sunday, August 22.

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 August 12, we have received \$2,995.

Join us Wednesday, August 25, for an intergenerational kick-off of our Wednesday night gatherings. We will begin “dreaming the dream” of a vision for our future ministry, facilitated by Chris Gambill with the Center for Congregational Health. We will share a meal together outside, so bring lawn chairs for your family. RSVP for the meal (cost: \$6 adults, \$4 for kids 4-12 years old, with a max of \$20 per family) at the link found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Childcare will be available for children up to two years of age.

The CBF General Assembly is being held August 25–28. Registration is free and you may participate virtually in any of the worship events, guest speaker presentations, and workshops; or in an in-person regional gathering at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte August 27 and 28, hosted by the CBF of North and South Carolina. Information and registration are available on the CBF website.

August Mission Project: The Clothing Ministry needs children's clothing, all seasons (new or gently used) and socks and underwear (new only). Place your donations in the Clothing Ministry cart at the McDowell parking lot door or in the marked drawer in the Lewis Lobby cabinet.

Calendar Highlights • August 15–22

Sunday, August 15

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (302)
- 5:30 Deacons' Meeting (Zoom)
Youth Group (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)

Monday, August 16

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 5:00 Church Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 17

- 10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

Wednesday, August 18

- 10:00 High School Bible Study Breakfast (TBD)
- 11:00 High School Bible Study (Blue Room)
- 4:00 5th Grade Pizza & Pool Party (Lake Park)
- 5:30 Church Conference (Zoom)
- 7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, August 19

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 6:30 College Group (TBD)
Preschool/Grade School Sunday School Teacher Meeting
(Lounge and Preschool/Children's Suites)

Friday, August 20

Wilderness Retreat to Pipestem WV (returns Sunday, August 22)

Sunday, August 22

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Blessing of the Backpacks (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 5:30 Youth Group (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)