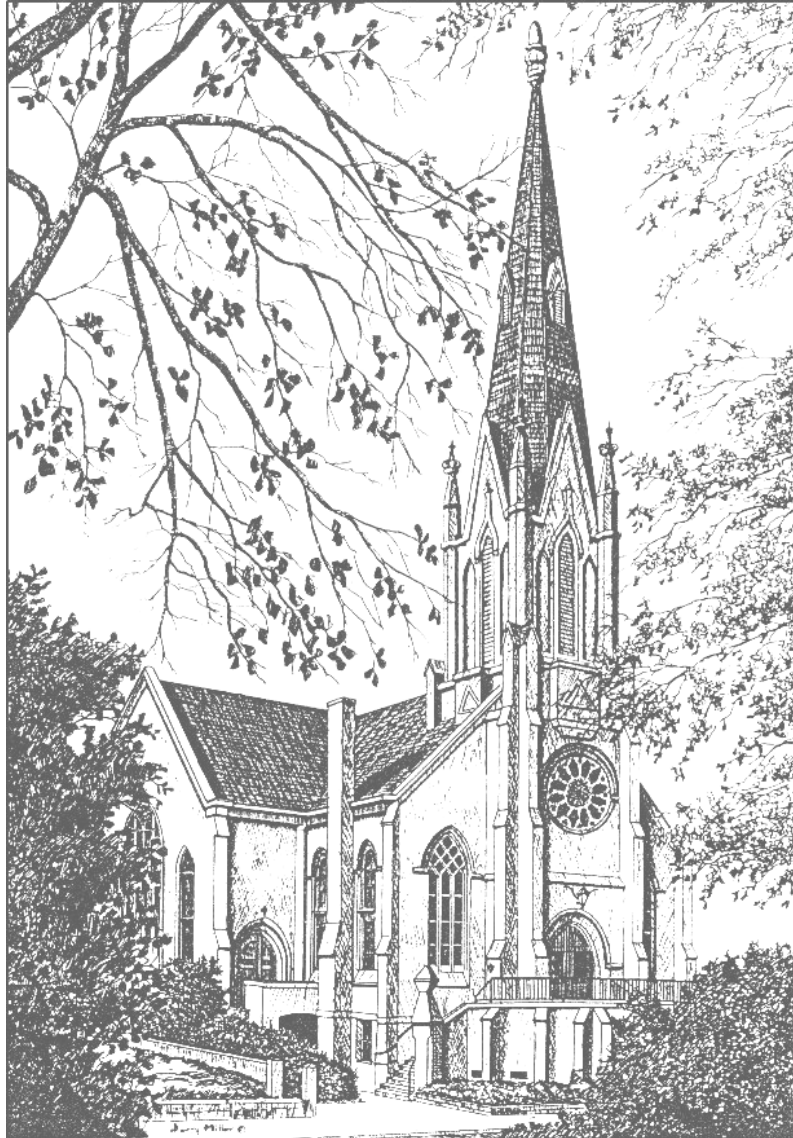


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 22, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost we complete three series of readings — from the historical narratives of the Hebrew canon, from the book of Ephesians, and from the Bread of Life discourse in John. While all three series have shaped our worship in recent weeks, most of the sermons have been grounded in the first set of readings. This will be the case again today as we reflect upon Solomon's dedication of the first temple in Jerusalem. While this is an ancient story, there are many parallels to our services of dedication and blessing. Today's worship also includes majestic hymns of praise and John Rutter's delightful setting of "For the Beauty of the Earth." We begin with a piano and violin prelude and end with a new liturgical recognition — the dedication of backpacks — seeking God's blessing on children, teachers, and parents for a school year filled with anxiety and hope.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

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

"Let All Things Now Living"
arr. Craig Duncan

Beth McCollum, violin

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 84

LEADER: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

PEOPLE: **My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

LEADER: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts.

PEOPLE: **Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

LEADER: Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

PEOPLE: **As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.**

LEADER: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

PEOPLE: **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.**

LEADER: For the Lord God is a sun and shield who bestows favor and honor.

PEOPLE: **No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

The Invocation

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. What God's al-might - y power has made, in mer - cy he is
 3. We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God the praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his eye is nev -
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with peace
 glo - ry. Let all who know his power pro - claim a loud the won -

sal - va - tion. My soul with com - fort rich he fills, and
 er sleep - ing. And where he rules in king - ly might, there
 to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who
 drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ery i - dol from its throne; the

ev - ery grief he gen - tly stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 is by one and all a - dored: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Kings 8:22–30, 41–43

Ginger Graves

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”¹

Taizé Community

The musical score is written on three staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near." A triplet of eighth notes is indicated above the word "God" in the second line.

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 6:56–69

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.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our joyful hymn of praise.

“Things We Can Learn from an Ancient Service of Dedication”

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.

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head,
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place,

born of his Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our
 for we have known it, the love of God out - poured; now
 called to o - bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he
 formed in great weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we

cor - ner - stone is Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O
 let us learn how to re - turn the gift of love once given: O
 wills us be a fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O
 die a - lone, for on its own each em - ber los - es fire: yet

let us live trans - par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es Heaven.
 let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

The Blessing of the Backpacks³

LEADER: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our various feelings, and our backpacks to you. Last year was different from what we expected. We couldn't see our friends or play on playgrounds as much. We learned at home, in masks six feet apart, or both. In all these changes, we may have felt sad and alone.

PEOPLE: **God, remind us all that you are our friend who comforts us and holds us close.**

LEADER: In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

PEOPLE: **God, remind us all that you are our friend who is always with us, giving us hope no matter the circumstance.**

LEADER: Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip up jackets, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new.

PEOPLE: **God, remind us all that you, too, are full of wonder. Fill our hearts and bless our hands and feet for the work of sharing your love through Christ with others.**

LEADER: And be with our teachers and staff, in our schools and also in our churches. Bless them with courage and confidence, knowing you are with them offering a steady hand on their shoulders. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in their students and recognition of the sweet and significant ways children are also teachers.

PEOPLE: **We love you, and we thank you for hearing our prayers. Amen.**

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

"Toccata in Seven"

Maureen Howell, organ

John Rutter

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³Adapted from *Blessing of the Backpacks and Back-to-School Worship Liturgy*, 2021 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. Contributors: Allie Lee, Arianne Leah Braithwaite, Amanda Meisenheimer.

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The Deacon on Call is Ginger Graves. A 28-year member of First Baptist, Ginger is a member of the Worship Committee, the Music Ministries Council, the Sanctuary Choir, and The Journey Sunday School class. She also serves as an assistant for the Children’s Choir. Ginger and her husband, Tyson, have one son, Zachary.

The acolytes today are Alice and Hayes Strickland.

The banner for today’s worship service is placed in memory of Harold and Evelyn Syfrett on the anniversary of their wedding, August 22, 1944, by their daughter Marie Berry and family.

Be in prayer for the 30 members of the Wilderness Class who are returning today from their retreat to Pipestem, WV.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. Our goal is \$10,000, to be split as needed between Habitat for Humanity and RISE Against Hunger; as of August 19, we have received \$4,345.

Join us Wednesday, August 25, for an intergenerational kick-off of our Wednesday night gatherings. We will share a meal together outside, so bring lawn chairs for your family. RSVP for the meal (\$6 adults, \$4 for kids 4-12 years old, max \$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 August 26 and 27. Registration is free and you may participate virtually in any of the worship events, guest speaker presentations, and workshops (the in-person portion in Charlotte on August 27 and 28 has been canceled). 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 in the Clothing Ministry cart at the McDowell parking lot door or in the marked drawer in the Lewis Lobby cabinet.

Now that we have professional streaming equipment and a set process, the AV team needs help from people, any age, who want to be a part of a regular Sunday rotation. We’ll teach you everything you need to know and you’ll be paired up each week, one person for audio and the other for streaming. Interested? Contact Royce Willmschen (rwillmschen@gmail.com) by August 31.

Calendar Highlights • August 22–29

Sunday, August 22

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship/Blessing of the Backpacks (Sanctuary & YouTube)

5:30 Youth Group (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)

Monday, August 23

10:00 Clothing Ministry Open

Tuesday, August 24

10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

6:30 Mission Friends, GA, & RA Teacher Meeting (Lounge and Preschool/Children's Suites)

Wednesday, August 25

10:00 High School Bible Study Breakfast (TBD)

11:00 High School Bible Study (Blue Room)

5:30 Intergenerational Program (Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall)

7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, August 26

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

6:30 College Group (TBD)

Sunday, August 29

9:45 Sunday School Kick-off

10:45 Worship Prep Class (231)

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)

5:30 Youth Kick-off (Fellowship Hall)