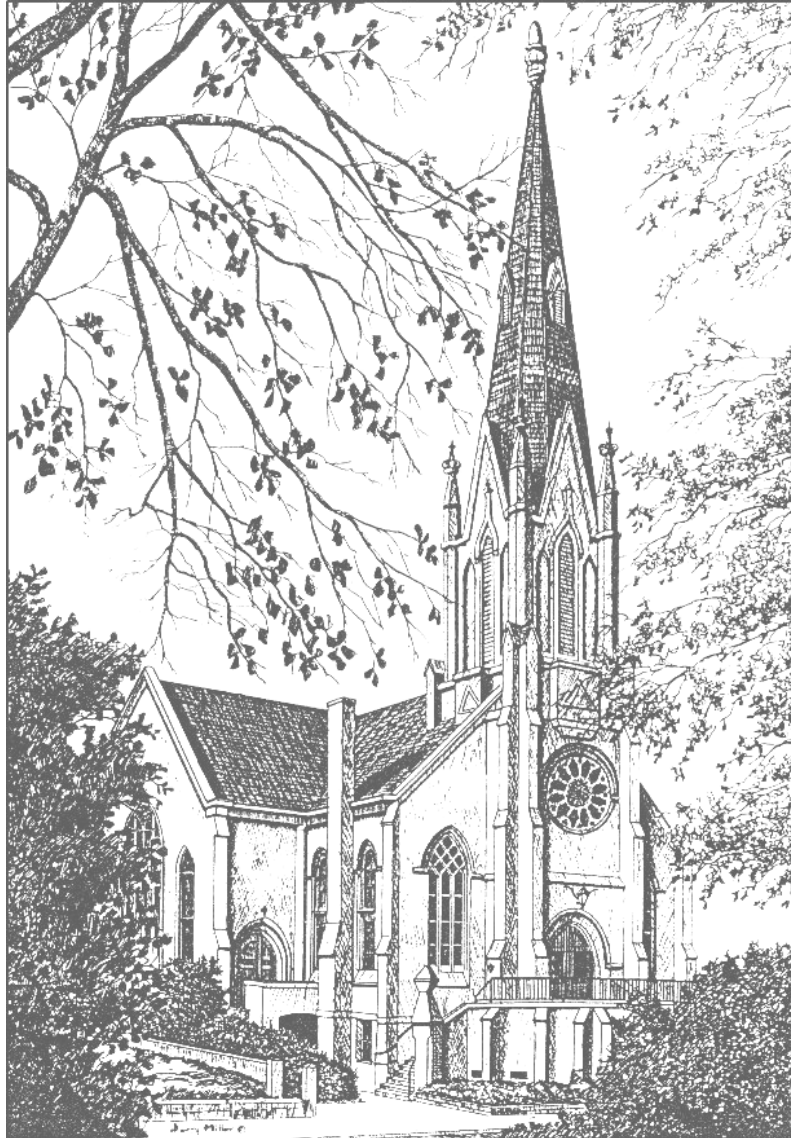


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 8, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 8, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called ordinary time in the Christian year. We conclude a series of readings on the reign of King David, each of which has implications for our lives, even though the context is quite different from ours and the details are messy. Today's story is no different. David laments the death of his son Absalom and all that has led this tragic loss. But there is more than lamentation in this text; there is a reminder that God is at work, extending grace, even in the messiest situations. And there is guidance for how to find a better way of relating to one another in the reading from Ephesians. We sing of God's grace, we pray for God's guidance, and we find strength to pursue a better way through the bread of life whom we meet in communion.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

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

"Eucharistia"  
Maureen Howell, organ

G. Winston Cassler

The Introit

"What Shall I Render to My God?"<sup>1</sup>  
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Austin Lovelace

What shall I render to my God for all His mercy's store?  
I'll take the gifts He hath bestowed and humbly ask for more.  
The sacred cup of saving grace I will with thanks receive,  
And all His promises embrace and to His glory live.

My vows I will to His great name before His people pay,  
And all I have, and all I am, upon His altar lay,  
Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe to Thee whate'er is mine.  
Born in Thy family below, and by redemption Thine.

Thy hands created me, Thy hands from sin have set me free,  
The mercy that hath loosed my bands hath bound me fast to Thee.  
Praise Him, ye saints, the God of love who hath thy sins forgiv'n,  
Till gathered to the church above, we sing the songs of heav'n.

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 130

LEADER: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Lord, hear my voice!**

LEADER: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

PEOPLE: **If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?**

LEADER: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

PEOPLE: **I wait for you, my soul waits, and in your word I hope.**

LEADER: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

PEOPLE: **more than those who watch for the morning.**

The Invocation

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your  
 2. Praise Him for his grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple  
 3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; all our hopes and  
 4. An - gels, help us to a - dore him, you be - hold him

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same for - ev - er,  
 fears he knows. In his hands he gen - tly bears us,  
 face to face. Sun and moon bow down be - fore him;

ev - er - more his prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 slow to chide and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33

Bob Bailey

<sup>5</sup>The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. <sup>6</sup>So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. <sup>7</sup>The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. <sup>8</sup>The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. <sup>9</sup>Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.

Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

<sup>15</sup>And ten young men, Joab’s armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

<sup>31</sup>Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.”

<sup>32</sup>The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.”

<sup>33</sup>The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. <sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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 6:35, 41–51

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I 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."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## \*The Hymn of Devotion

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"<sup>2</sup>

HOLY MANNA

*Stanza 1 (choir); stanzas 2,3 (all)*

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
 Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth, we will be fed.  
 You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal, taste and see that God is good.

**All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.  
 Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 We that once were lost and scattered, in communion's love have stood.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.  
 Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace, we have been led.  
 Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

## The Sermon

"A Word of Grace and a Word of Guidance"

Christopher Chapman

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Musical Reflection

Maureen Howell, piano

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. God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,  
2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears  
3. We learn through our fam - ilies how close - ness and trust  
4. Give, Lord, to each fam - ily in con - flict and storm  
5. Then wid - en that wis - dom and grace to in - clude

1. the cir - cles of nur - ture that raised us from birth,  
2. for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,  
3. in - crease when our ac - tions are lov - ing and just.  
4. a sense of your wis - dom and grace that trans - form  
5. the rac - es and view - points our fam - ilies ex - clude

1. com - pan - ions who join us to walk through each stage  
2. the in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend  
3. Yet fam - ilies have al - so dis - tort - ed their roles,  
4. sharp an - ger to in - sight which strength - ens the heart  
5. till peace in each home bears and nur - tures the bud

1. of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.  
2. of par - ent and part - ner and room - mate and friend.  
3. mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruis - ing their souls.  
4. and makes clear the place where re - build - ing can start.  
5. of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.



## 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

“Finale in D minor”  
Maureen Howell, organ

Eric Thiman

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<sup>1</sup>Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Music: American Folk, Austin Lovelace, arr., © 1955 Canyon Press, Inc.

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The substitute Deacon on Call is Bob Bailey. An 8-year member, Bob is a teacher for the Everette Miller Friendship and John Hiott Sunday School classes. Bob and his wife Dolores have three children and six grandchildren.

The sanctuary flowers are given by Carol and Brantley Blanchard, Sr., in honor of the marriage of Lindsey Davis and Brantley Blanchard, Jr., on Saturday, August 7.

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 5, we have received \$2,485.

## Calendar Highlights • August 8–15

Sunday, August 8

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

Monday, August 9

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 10

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 7:00 Social Committee Meeting (301)

Wednesday, August 11

- 10:00 High School Bible Study Breakfast (TBD)
- 11:00 High School Bible Study (Blue Room)
- 4:00 Grade-schooler Olympics (Lingafelt Yard)
- 7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, August 12

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 6:30 College Group (TBD)

Sunday, August 15

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (302)
- 5:30 Deacons' Meeting (Zoom)