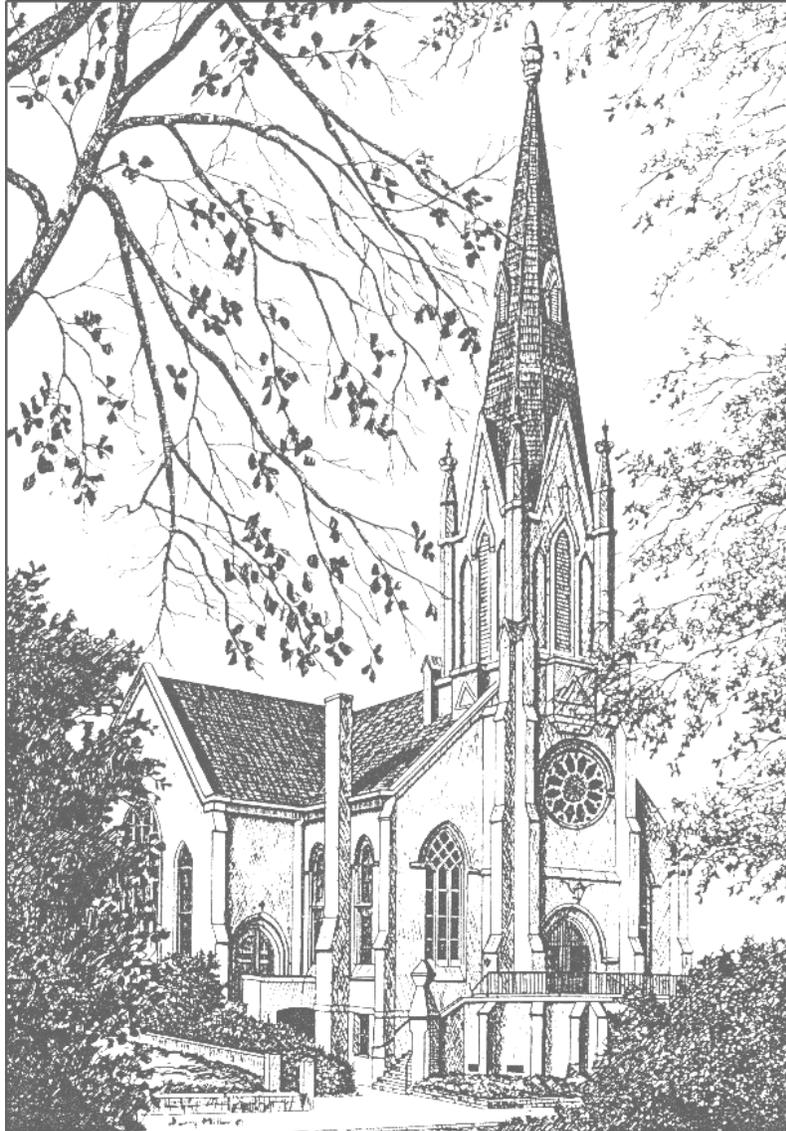


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 12, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we gather on this Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, our worship is shaped by many different realities. As always, the joys and struggles we bring inform our shared experience, but the lectionary texts are the beginning place, as we locate our experience in the context of the covenant community's long history of relating to God. Today, as we continue to struggle with the enduring realities of a pandemic and mark the twentieth anniversary of terrorist attacks on our nation, we begin with a psalm that assures us of God's care, we read texts that talk about redemptive suffering and the way of the cross, and we lift up prayers and songs of praise to the God who sustains us through these trying times. The sermon explores an ancient challenge named in the reading from James — the use of words — a challenge that has only become greater with all the vehicles of communication available to us now. We conclude with the celebration of communion, as an anthem invites us to remember all that God has offered to us through Christ — enough to sustain us in any time.

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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

"Fairest Lord Jesus"  
Brent Olstad

Becky Mercer, flute  
Maureen Howell, piano

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 116

LEADER: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice and my supplications.

PEOPLE: **Because you have inclined your ear to me, I will call on you as long as I live.**

LEADER: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

PEOPLE: **Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

LEADER: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

PEOPLE: **The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, God saved me.**

LEADER: Return, O my soul, to your rest,

PEOPLE: **for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.**

LEADER: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

PEOPLE: **I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

The Invocation

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 hill and vale, and tree, and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

5. For the Church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
 offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,  
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For thyself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given;  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,  
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Becky Mercer

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

James 3:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

Mark 8:27-38

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus,      rul - er of all na - ture,  
 2. Fair are the mead - ows,      fair - er still the wood - lands,  
 3. Fair is the sun - shine,      fair - er still the moon - light,  
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior!      Lord of the na - tions!

O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cher - ish,  
 robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,  
 and all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,  
 Son of God and Son of man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!  
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
 Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.  
 praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## 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

“Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

CANONBURY

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in  
2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the  
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the  
4. O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un -  
liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
stum - bling and the stray - ing feet; and feed me, Lord, that  
pre - cious things which you im - part; and wing my words, that  
til my heart shall o - ver - flow in kind - ling thought and  
let me seek your wan - dering chil - dren, lost, a - lone.  
I may feed your hun - gry ones with man - na sweet.  
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - ya heart.  
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Anthem

“In Remembrance”<sup>1</sup>  
Buryl Red

Sanctuary Choir  
Becky Mercer, flute

In remembrance of Me eat this bread  
In remembrance of Me drink this wine  
In remembrance of Me pray for the time  
When God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me heal the sick  
In remembrance of me feed the poor  
In remembrance of me open the door  
And let your brother in, let him in.

Take eat and be comforted  
Drink and remember too  
That this is my body and precious blood  
Shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me search for truth  
In remembrance of me always love  
In remembrance of me don't look above  
But in your heart, in your heart  
Look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of Me  
Do this in remembrance of Me  
In remembrance of Me.

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Choral Response<sup>2</sup>

*The Lord bless you,  
The Lord keep you,  
The Lord give you peace. 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

“Festival Postlude (Offertorio)”  
Domenico Zipoli

Maureen Howell, organ

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<sup>1</sup> From *Celebrate Life*, Words: Ragan Courtney; Music: Buryl Red © 1972, Broadman Press.

<sup>2</sup> Hal Hopson © 1978, Harold Flammer.

The tunes and texts of “For the Beauty of the Earth,” “Fairest Lord Jesus,” and “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak” are in the public domain.

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The Deacon on Call is Felicia Gore Hoover. A 19-year member, Felicia serves on the Board of Trustees and the Hospitality Committee and is a member the Unity Sunday School Class. Felicia volunteers with Team Hoover, a non-profit which seeks to help families effected by multiple sclerosis and to fund research for a cure. Team Hoover was born here at FBC 10 years ago. She and her husband Chris has three adult daughters — Hannah, Faith, and Emily Hoover.

The sanctuary flowers are given today by Emily Johnson in loving memory of her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson.

Sympathy to Patricia and Julian Hughes, Jr., on the August 30 death of their son Julian “Jay” Hughes, III.

The State Missions Offering goal is \$10,000; we have received \$6,210 so far. Your gifts will help those in need by supporting various agencies including Baptist Retirement Homes, NC Baptist Hospital, Baptist Children’s Homes, and Baptists on Mission.

September Mission Project: We are collecting school supplies for Southeast Raleigh Elementary. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for a Sign-up Genius link with a list of needed supplies. Place in the marked drawer in the Lewis Lobby cabinet.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 15; meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. This week, Carolyn Dickens will provide a history of our church buildings. More details and a Zoom link in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Please note that there will be three parking spaces in the middle section of the parking lot (marked with orange cones) reserved for ITC pick-up; we thank you for keeping these spots open.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice)), by email ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485), all by **noon on Mondays**. Menu for September 15: roast beef, mashed potatoes, cabbage.

Be in prayer for the 40 people at Caswell for the Pathfinders’ Sunday School class retreat, returning tomorrow; and also for the 11 people from the Japanese congregation on retreat to Caraway, returning today.

Please bring new or gently used books, stuffed animals, games, and toys to the church on Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. for our first donation collection day for Toy Joy. This year, we will have specific donation drop-off days; please do not bring toys to the church at other times as there is no one to sort them and no place to store them. See *Rose Window Weekly* for more information.

The Community Ministries team will be hosting a shredding event Saturday, September 18, 9–11:00 a.m., in the parking lot. This is a free event, open to the church and the community.

Family Promise Week will be September 19–26. Email Holly Ivel ([hi2810@bellsouth.net](mailto:hi2810@bellsouth.net)) to sign up to provide meals that week to the families staying in the transitional housing apartment building.

## Calendar Highlights • September 12–19

Sunday, September 12

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (310)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth Program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)

Monday, September 13

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 14

- 10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School Class (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 15

- 5:00 Meal Served (Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Music for Children
- 6:15 Centerpoint Program (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:45 Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:50 Mission Friends/RAs/GAs
- 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, September 16

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

Saturday, September 18

- 9:00 Toy Joy Donation Drop-off (Parking Lot)
- Community Shredding Event (Parking Lot)

Sunday, September 19

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Baby Dedication (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (302)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (310)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth Program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)