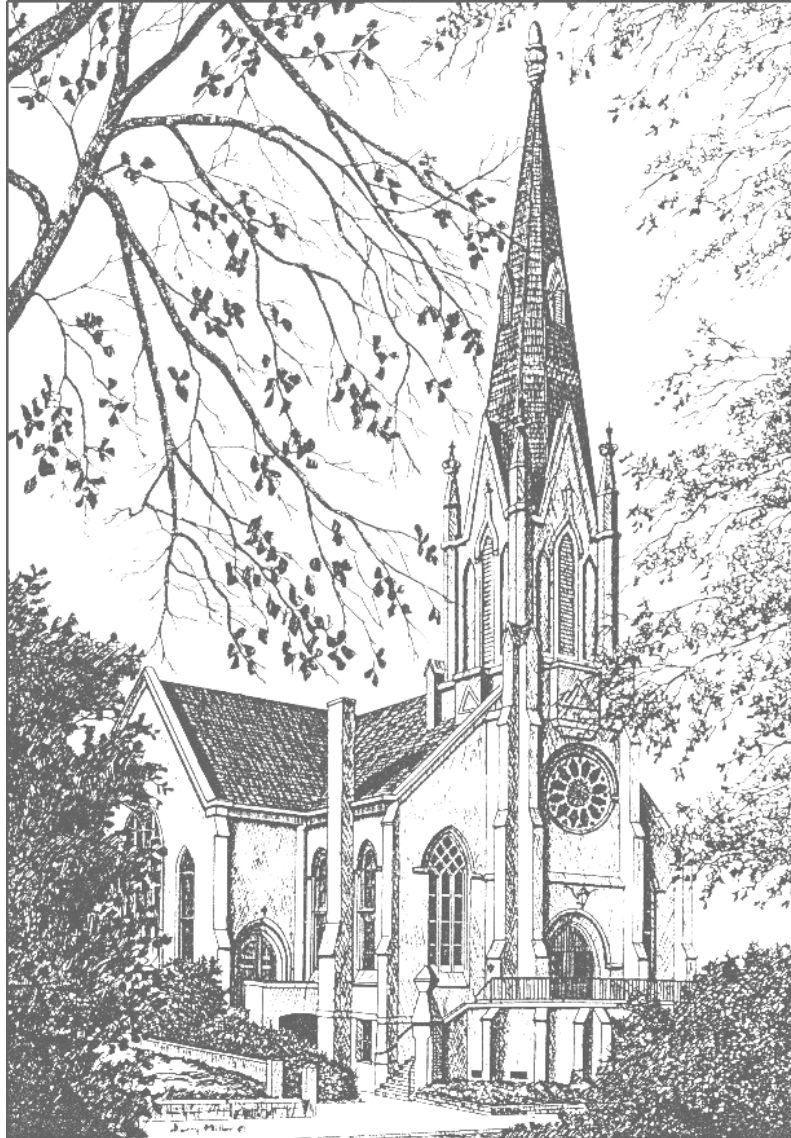


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 19, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 19, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called ordinary time in the Christian year, though nothing seems ordinary these days. As we continue to battle a pandemic and all of the divisiveness of our time, in addition to our own personal struggles, we bring to God our expressions of gratitude and praise, and our cries for help. We seek refuge and strength, guidance and direction, hope and peace. And we do so through inspiring music and heartfelt prayers, sacred texts and proclamation, joyful sounds and holy silence. The sermon explores the familiar reading from Proverbs which may seem irrelevant to current realities, but it raises questions about the roles of women which lie at the center of many current issues in our nation and world. Though this reading has been used to justify patriarchal perspectives, the text itself includes amazingly progressive claims, pointing to a model where women and men are equal partners. It is a helpful perspective to consider as we conclude worship with the dedication of children.

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

"The New Commonwealth"
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Maureen Howell, organ

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Psalm 1

LEADER: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

PEOPLE: **but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night.**

LEADER: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

PEOPLE: **In all that they do, they prosper.**

LEADER: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

PEOPLE: **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

LEADER: for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

PEOPLE: **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

The Invocation

Choir: I Praise thee, O my Lord,
My courage, strength, and hope renew,
Be present, Lord, in all I do;
My true commitment now I make to You.
Sing, sun and stars of space,
Sing, all that see his face,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let God's creation soar,
And sing out for evermore,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

*All: (Singing stanzas 1, 3, and 4)

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find,
3. The night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say,
4. Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
may Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal song

to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus. Christ be praised!
My com - fort still is this, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
when this sweet chant they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Proverbs 31:10–31

Mike Dare

¹⁰A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. ¹⁵She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. ²²She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: ²⁹“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” ³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. ³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system is for the Leader, with lyrics: "Leader: Be still and know that I am God. Be still and". The second system is for the All, with lyrics: "All: Be still and know that I am God.". The third system continues the lyrics: "know that I am God." on the top staff and "Be still and know that I am God." on the bottom staff. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases held over from the previous 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

Mark 9:30–37

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Refrain
 Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

D.C.

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 white, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love, all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

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

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”⁴

EBENEZER

(Children are asked to join Susan Stevens in the narthex so they may participate in the dedication of Mac Maloney and Laney Robbins.)

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - meas - ured, bound - less, free,
2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread his praise from shore to shore!
3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery love the best,

roll - ing as a might - y o - cean in its full - ness o - ver me!
He who loves us, ev - er loves us, chang - es nev - er, nev - er - more;
vast the o - cean of his bless - ing, sweet the ha - ven of his rest!

Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, is the cur - rent of his love,
he, who died to save his loved ones, in - ter - cedes for them a - bove;
O the deep, deep love of Je - sus - for my heaven of heavens is he;

lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward to that glo - rious rest a - bove.
he, who called them his own peo - ple, watch - es o - ver them in love.
this my ev - er - last - ing glo - ry - Je - sus' might - y love for me!

The Dedication of Alexander McLean Maloney, son of Annie and Dan Maloney, and Laney Lasater Robbins, daughter of Michelle and Bryan Robbins

Leader: The nurture of children in faith is a sacred privilege and awesome responsibility. It begins with the commitment of parents and includes the love of the whole congregation. Today we present Alexander McLean Maloney and Laney Lasater Robbins to the church and dedicate them to God. Who brings these children for this holy purpose?

Parents: *We, their parents, do.*

Leader: What can we affirm about Mac and Laney?

People: **That each is a child of God by creation, made in the image of God.**

Leader: As Mac and Laney grow in their understanding of God and themselves, how will we help them to learn about their true status as beloved?

People: **We will give them our love and include them in the life of the congregation.**

Leader: As Mac and Laney grow through different stages of life, what will we tell them about their story?

People: **We will tell them about Abraham and Sarah, about Mary and Joseph, about Jesus and the people who have sought to follow him in this place.**

Leader: What will we expect of Mac and Laney?

People: **We will look to the day when they will sit with us at the Lord's Table, declare faith in Jesus Christ, and confirm the heritage we seek to pass on to them.**

Leader: Annie and Dan and Michelle and Bryan, do you, as parents, embrace your primary responsibility to nurture your children in faith?

Parents: *Yes, we do, for we long to pass on our heritage to them.*

Leader: Do you, the members of First Baptist Church, pledge to work toward creating a nurturing environment for Mac and Laney and all the children God entrusts to our care?

People: **Yes, we do, for these children belong to us as well.**

Leader: Then may God be with us and help us.

All: **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

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"
Anne Krentz Organ, arr.

Maureen Howell, organ

¹Words: Johann Wallin and Edward Caswall; Music: Fred Bock © 1990, Fred Bock Music Company.

²Text: Psalm 46:10. Music: © 1989 The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-708116.

³Words: Tom Colvin; Music: adapted from Ghana folk song by Tom Colvin, Charles H. Webb, arr. Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company. Arr. © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved.

⁴Words: S. Trevor Francis; Music: Thomas J. Williams, used by permission of Eluned Crump and Dilys Evans.

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The Deacon on Call is Mike Dare. A 34-year member of FBC, Mike and his wife Meg have four children: Mitch, Montana, Jeremy and Claudia.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Christy Isaacs Alston by her son, Alejandro Alston, and her parents, Linda and Dan Roberts.

Sympathy to Bobby Hinson on the September 13 death of his father, Lloyd Hinson.

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 22; meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. This week, the Dream Team will facilitate a conversation with various community leaders on the needs and hopes of our downtown neighborhood. More details and a Zoom link in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485), all by **noon on Mondays**. Menu for September 22: chicken pot pie and fried apples.

Be in prayer for the 11 high school students and 4 chaperones going on retreat Friday, September 24, and returning Sunday, September 26, to Arapahoe and to the Outer Banks.

The Crop Walk will be held Sunday, October 31. You can support the walk and the FBC team by “walking” or donating. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Calendar Highlights • September 19–26

Sunday, September 19

Family Promise Week (through Sat, Sept 26)

9:45 Sunday School

Dream Team Session (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Worship/Baby Dedication (S & YouTube)

Japanese Worship (302)

5:00 Youth Choir (310)

Dream Team Session (Zoom)

6:00 Youth Supper (FH)

6:30 Youth Program (FH/Blue Room)

7:00 Dream Team Session (Zoom)

Monday, September 20

10:00 Clothing Ministry Open

6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (S Balcony)

7:00 Adult Ministries Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 21

10:00 Staff Meeting (CR)

10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School Class (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 22

5:00 Meal Served (PL/FH)

6:00 Music for Children

6:15 Centerpoint Program (FH)

6:45 Handbell Rehearsal (S Balcony)

6:50 Mission Friends/RAs/GAs

7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, September 23

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

6:30 College Group (TBD)

Friday, Sept 24–Sunday, September 26

High School Boys/Girls Retreats

Sunday, September 26

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (S & YouTube)

Japanese Worship (302)

5:00 Youth Choir (310)

5:30 Deacons' Meeting (Zoom)

6:00 Youth Supper (FH)

6:30 Youth Program (FH/Blue Room)