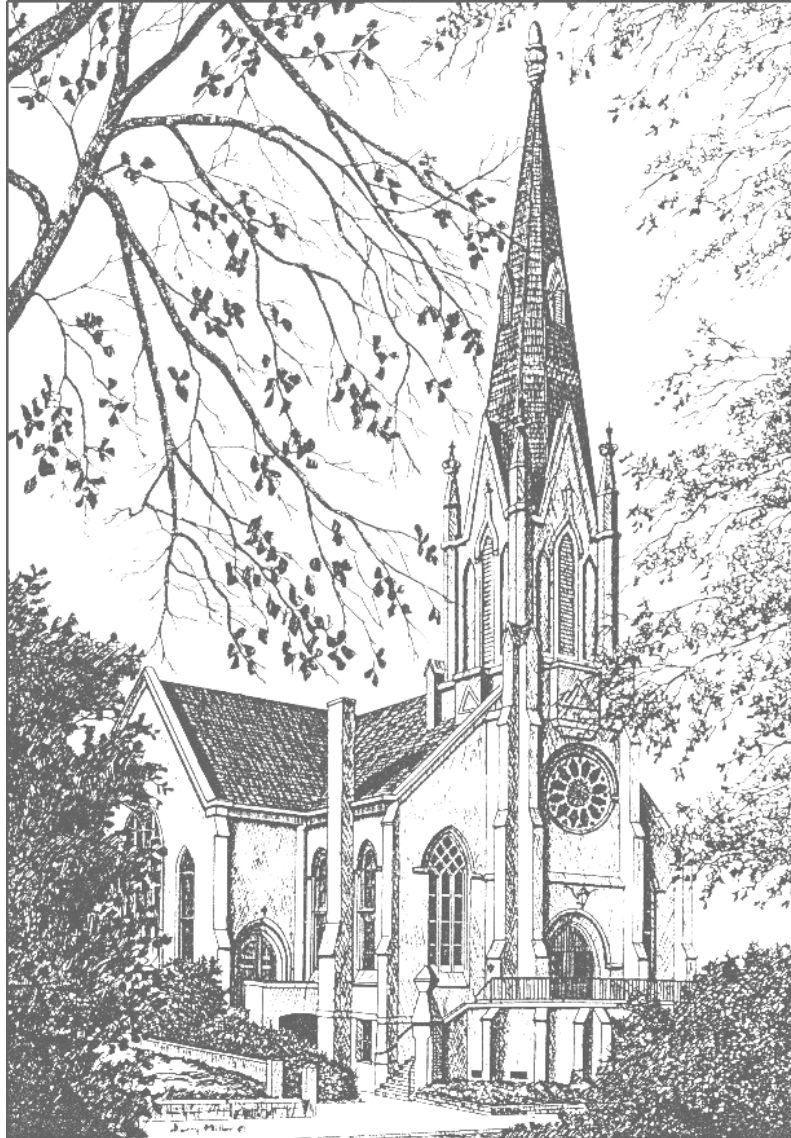


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 5, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 5, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called ordinary time in the Christian year. In this season, we wear green stoles as a sign of our yearning to grow as individuals and as a community of faith; and as we pursue growth, we listen for the voice of God speaking through several readings. Often we focus on one of these texts, sometimes two, but today we consider all of the texts together. When we do this today, as on most Sundays, we notice common themes and certain points of tension between the texts. For those who seek genuine growth, there is value in both. As we reflect on all of our texts, we lift up prayers and songs of praise to the God who speaks through them, and then we depart to serve this very same God with a renewed desire for faithfulness and an enlarged understanding of our calling.

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

"The Peace May Be Exchanged" (from *Rubrics*) Maureen Howell, organ
Dan Locklair

The Introit

"Peace"¹ Sanctuary Choir
Shaker Song/Kevin Siegfried, arr.
*Peace unto Zion. Peace to the faithful,
and a crown of rejoicing
from your Heavenly Father.
When Zion shall be cleansed
she shall flourish as a rose.
I will walk in her midst
and will bless all those
with a tenfold blessing
And their sorrows shall cease,
for I'll cry upon her walls.
Peace. Peace. Peace.*

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

PEOPLE: **I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

LEADER: Do not put your trust in rulers, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

PEOPLE: **When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

LEADER: Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel,

PEOPLE: **whose hope is in the Lord their God,**

LEADER: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

PEOPLE: **who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.**

LEADER: The Lord sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

PEOPLE: **The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down and loves the righteous.**

LEADER: The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, but brings to ruin the way of the wicked.

PEOPLE: **The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease,
 3. He breaks the power of can-celed sin, he sets the pris - on-er free;
 4. He speaks, and lis-tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;
 5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace.
 'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 his blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re-joice; the hum-ble poor be - lieve.
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 35:4-7

Robert Ponton

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

James 2:1-10, 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer²

1st Time — Choir

2nd/3rd Time — All

Musical score for 'The Call to Prayer' in 2/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the lyrics 'Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.' The chords are indicated above the treble clef: F, C, Dm, Bb, D, G, C in the first system; and F, C, Dm, Gm, C (with a triplet), F in the second system. The bass clef accompaniment includes a triplet in the second system.

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.**

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

"Lord, I Was Blind"³

O WALY WALY

Unison

1. Lord, I was blind; I could not see in your marred
 2. Lord, I was deaf; I could not hear the thrill - ing
 3. Lord, I was mute; I could not speak the grace and
 4. Lord, I was dead; I could not move my life - less

vis - age an - y grace: but now the beau - ty of your
 mu - sic of your voice: but now I hear you and re -
 glo - ry of your name: but now, as touched with liv - ing
 soul from sin's dark grave: but now the power of life you

face in ra - dant vi - sion dawns on me.
 joice, and all your spo - ken words are dear.
 flame, my lips will speak for Je - sus' sake.
 gave has raised me up to know your love.

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

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

SCOTT

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me;
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thousand - est clear,
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and
 and while the wave - notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will
 o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren

Refrain

set me free.
 dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
 thus to share.

will to see; o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see; o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see; o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Choral Response⁴

*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

“Allegro Marziale”
Everett Titcomb

Maureen Howell, organ

¹Shaker Songs, Kevin Siegfried, arr. © 1997 *earthsongs*.

²Words: Latin (9th century); tr. Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier (20th century); © 1979 *Les Presses de Taizé* (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.).

³Words: Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Music: Copyright © 1983 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved.

⁴Hal Hopson © 1978, Harold Flammer.

The tunes and texts of “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” and “Open My Eyes, That I May See” are in the public domain.

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The Deacon on Call is Matt Bullard. A 38-year member of First Baptist, Matt is currently serving as the Church Moderator/Chair of Deacons and is on the Personnel Committee. He is a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School Class. He and his wife Anne have two children, Catherine and Madison.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Harlee H. and Pauline G. Jobe by their daughter, Mary Anne Jobe.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

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 September 2, we have received \$5,540.

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 8; meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. Leah Reed will facilitate a conversation with Sonia Moore and Sabrina Tyndall about the beginning of our clothing ministry and its implications for present and future ministry. 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), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485), all by **noon on Mondays**. Menu for September 8: loaded baked ziti and veggie ziti, broccoli normandy, corn.

Be in prayer for the 40 people going on the Pathfinders' Sunday School class retreat to Caswell, leaving on Wednesday, September 8, and returning on Wednesday, September 15; and also for the 11 people from the Japanese congregation, who will be leaving for retreat to Caroway on Saturday, September 11, returning on Sunday, September 12.

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) to sign up to provide meals that week to the families staying in the transitional housing apartment building.

Calendar Highlights • September 5–12

Sunday, September 5

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)

Japanese Worship (302)

Monday, September 6 *Labor Day Holiday*

Church office and Clothing Ministry Closed

Tuesday, September 7

10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)

10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

7:00 Properties Committee Meeting (301)

Wednesday, September 8

Pathfinders' Retreat (Caswell, returns 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 9

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

6:30 College Group (TBD)

Saturday, September 11

JBC Retreat (Caroway, returns Sunday, September 12)

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)