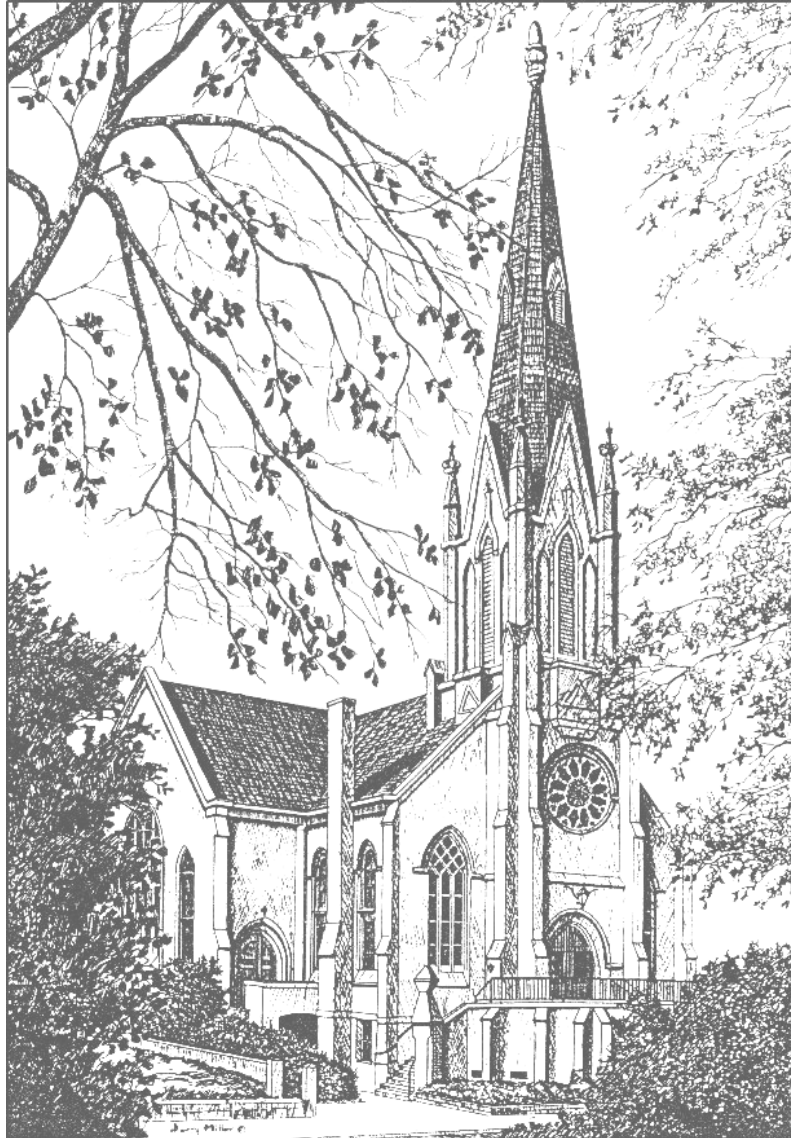


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



October 31, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 31, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. It is a season in which we reflect upon our calling to grow in Christ as individuals and as a community of faith, which is why the liturgical color is green. We sing a hymn of saints, recognizing that tomorrow is All Saint's Day, a day that we will observe more completely next Sunday. The reading from Ruth frames our sermon as we look at one saint's selflessness and loving-kindness as a reflection of the very nature of God worth emulating in our relationships with one another. Our Hymn of Discipleship is a familiar hymn reminding us of God's faithfulness, which is renewed every morning, inspiring us as we depart to serve others out of our deep gratitude for ways God has loved us through Christ.

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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

"Contemplation"  
Karen Buckwalter

Evening Bells

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 146

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: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

PEOPLE: **who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.**

LEADER: The Lord sets prisoners free and lifts up those who are bowed down.

PEOPLE: **The Lord watches over the stranger and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

LEADER: The Lord will reign forever.

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre - a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend  
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -  
 eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus -  
 thee, sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -  
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 fore him! Let the A - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might-y can do, if with his love he be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain: glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.  
MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN  
14.14.4.7.8.

The Anthem

“Bright Canaan”

Sanctuary Choir

Traditional American hymn; Alice Parker, arr.

O who will come and go with me, I am bound for the land of Canaan.  
I'm bound fair Canaan's land to see, I am bound for the land of Canaan.  
*O Canaan, bright Canaan I'm bound for the land of Canaan,*  
*O Canaan, it is my happy home. I am bound for the land of Canaan.*  
I'll join with them who've gone before, where sin and sorrow are no more . . .  
Our songs of praise shall fill the skies, and higher still our joys they rise . . .

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Christian Testament

Hebrews 9:11–14

Sam Carothers

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Mark 12:28–34

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup>Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup>and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## 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 Hebrew Bible

Ruth 1:1–18

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup>They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." <sup>14</sup>Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup>So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" <sup>18</sup>When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



1. For all the saints who've shown your  
 2. For all the saints who loved your  
 3. For all the saints who named your  
 4. Bless all whose will or name or



love In how they live and where they  
 name, Whose faith in - creased the Sav - ior's  
 will, And showed the king - dom com - ing  
 love Re - flects the grace of heav'n a -



move, For mind - ful wo - men, car - ing  
 fame, Who sang your songs and shared your  
 still Through self - less pro - test, prayer and  
 bove. Though un - ac - claimed by earth - ly



men, Ac - cept our gra - ti - tude a - gain.  
 word, Ac - cept our gra - ti - tude, good Lord.  
 praise, Ac - cept the gra - ti - tude we raise.  
 powers, Your life through theirs has hal - lowed ours.

“A Higher Call”

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.*

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no  
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and  
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.  
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed— great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

DEPARTING TO SERVE

\*The Charge

\*The Choral Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

\*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

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"  
Craig Phillips

Maureen Howell, organ

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Sam Carothers. A 38-year member of First Baptist, Sam serves on the Nominating and Hospitality Committees and is a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School class. He and his wife Linda have two children and four grandchildren.

Our acolytes today are Barry and Beth Jones.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Howard Shell by his wife, Frances Shell, and family.

Sympathy to Jordan and Matthew Romeo on the October 23 death of their mother Kathy and to Anne Brown on the October 28 death of her mother, Marion Johnson.

Today is the last day for deacon elections. You may submit your ballot in the ballot box in the library by 12:00 noon today. Address questions to any of the current deacons.

The State Missions Offering goal is \$10,000; we have received \$7,875 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.

Visit the table in the Lewis building lobby for the church library book give-away. Please feel free to take one or more books the library can no longer use.

Dr. Chapman will be away from the office through Tuesday, November 2. Lynn Lingafelt will be preaching today in his absence.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, November 3; meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. This week, we will work on our Toy Joy mission project (in-person only, no Zoom).

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 November 3: chicken, rice, black beans, and tortillas.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour next Saturday night for the return of Daylight Saving Time!

All members of the FBC family are invited to a drive-through baby shower honoring Leah and Chad Reed on Sunday, November 7, 2:00-3:30 p.m., in the church parking lot. Cars should enter the lot from Edenton Street. This event will be hosted by some of the Reeds' many FBC friends. Leah and Chad are registered at [babylist.com](http://babylist.com). Their baby boy is due in early December.

## Calendar Highlights • October 31–November 7

Sunday, October 31

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (302)
- 12:00 Handbell Lunch (Garth)
- 1:00 Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)
- 2:30 Crop Walk FaceBook Live (Parking Lot)  
Crop Walk Micro-Walks

Monday, November 1

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)

Tuesday, November 2

- 10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 7:00 Properties Committee Meeting (301)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School Class (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 3

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

Thursday, November 4

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Saturday, November 6

- Toy Joy Prep (Building-wide)
- 11:00 Memorial Service for Kathy Romeo, Reception Following (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, November 7

- Daylight Saving Time Returns
- Toy Joy Prep (Building-wide)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship — All Saints Sunday (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (302)
- 12:30 Children's Retreat
- 2:00 Drive-thru Baby Shower (Parking Lot)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (302)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth Program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)