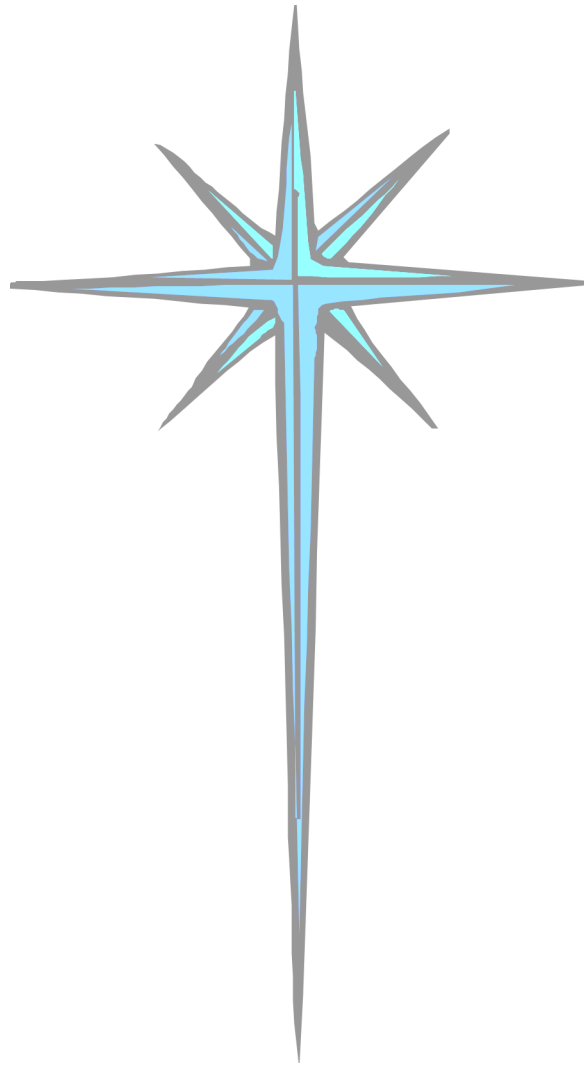


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 2, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 2, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today we celebrate Epiphany (technically January 6), the oldest traditional recognition of the incarnation. The name comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia* which means “appearance” or “manifestation” and refers to the manifestation of the Christ to the whole world, beginning with travelers from the East called Magi. Thus, we read the familiar text from Matthew 2, along with texts that point to the meaning of this day. We sing hymns which reflect upon the Magi’s journey and celebrate the good news of incarnation. And we consider the implications of this story — that there is darkness in this world, yet also light, and we are called to bear witness to the light.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

“We Three Kings”
Fred Bock

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

based upon Psalm 72

Leader/People (On repeats):

Refrain

We, too, bow down. In one voice we raise,
ev - er to sing un - end - ing praise.

Words and Music: Hal H. Hopson

LEADER: You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth.
And joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow. *(Refrain)*

The rulers bow before you, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore you, your praise all people sing;
To you shall prayers unceasing and daily vows ascend;
Your rule is still increasing, your rule is without end. *(Refrain)*

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

CRUSADER’S HYMN

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!

WORDS: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. anonymous, 1850; st. 4, tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873
MUSIC: H. A. Hoffman von Fallersleben's *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; arr. Richard S. Willis, 1850

CRUSADER'S HYMN
5.6.8.5.5.8.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Cara Lynn Vogel

God who led the magi to the baby in a manger, open our eyes. We ask for clarity. The clarity to speak up and out. The clarity to do the next right thing. The clarity to embrace Immanuel, Christ with us, in our midst. Give us grace when we turn away from you and rejuvenate us to see things anew. Guide us, God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

Mark Bender

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the

star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
 man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore,
 rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,
 nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,

lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious
 him whom heaven and earth a - dore, so, may we with
 pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest
 bring our ran - somed souls at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
 will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.
 treas - ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven - ly King.
 star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1858, alt.
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.

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

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

FESTAL SONG

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

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

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” John Leavitt

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The tunes and texts of “Fairest Lord Jesus” and “As with Gladness Men of Old” are in the public domain.

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The Deacon on Call is Cara Lynn Vogel. A 33-year member, Cara Lynn serves as the Church Moderator and the Chair of Deacons. She also serves on the Denominational Relations Committee and is a member of The Journey Sunday School class. She and her husband, Jamie have one son, Jesse.

As we continue our annual stewardship emphasis, please prayerfully consider your 2022 financial commitment and return your pledge card to the church office as soon as possible. As of December 30, 156 pledge cards totaling \$1,134,853 have been received.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$4,123 toward our goal of \$20,000.

2022 Contribution Envelopes are available on the first floor corridor leading to the Clothing Ministry; if you would like some but haven't gotten any in the past, contact Wayne Hager (whager@fbcraleigh.org) and he will go over options with you.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 5: meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. This week, we'll begin a three-week study entitled “Reading, Studying, and Being Transformed by the Bible,” led by First Baptist member and Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the Campbell University Divinity School, Dr. Barry A Jones. Covering some of the material in his 2019 book *Gaining a Heart of Wisdom*, Dr. Jones will use Psalm 90 as a concrete example. This week will focus on the common sense of the text, with the idea that everyone can be a reader.

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 January 5: curry chicken with rice, cabbage, and carrots.

Be in prayer for those going on the church-wide ski retreat at Pipestem January 7–9.

Community Outreach Opportunity: take a meal to the Helen Wright Center. *And Also With 'Cue* will offer dinner to the residents of the Helen Wright Center on three dates in 2022: January 11, February 8, and March 8. If you are able to help deliver those dinners, please email Ashley Prather (pratherak@gmail.com).

Calendar Highlights

January 2–9

Sunday, January 2

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (226)

Monday, January 3

- Church Office Closed (New Year's holiday)
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)

Tuesday, January 4

- 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, January 5

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

Thursday, January 6

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Friday, January 7–Sunday, January 9

Church-wide Ski Retreat (Pipestem, WV)

Sunday, January 9

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Deacon Ordination (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (226)