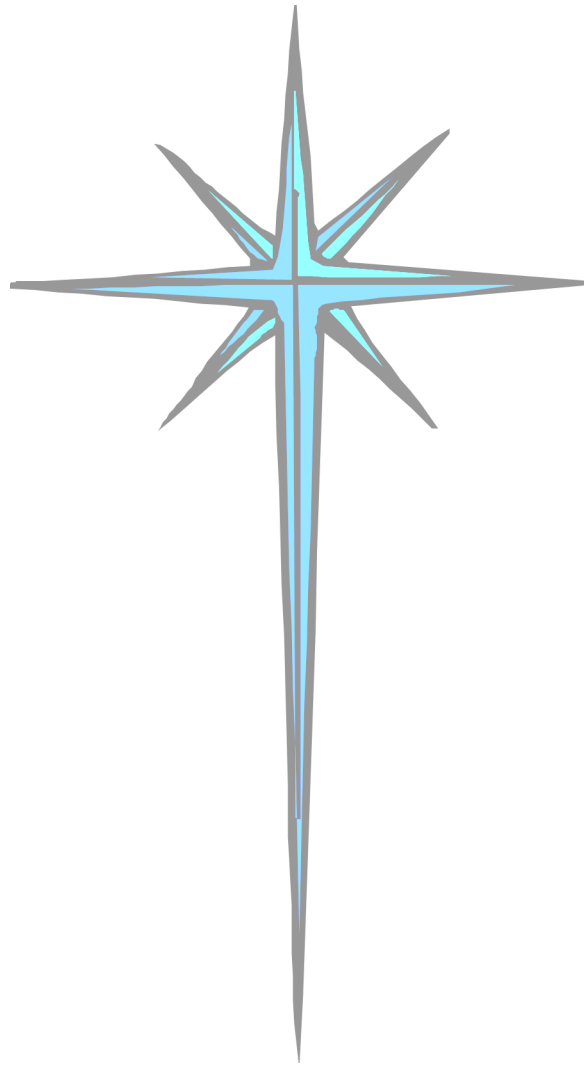


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 23, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 23, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we reflect on God's manifestation of light and love to the whole world. This manifestation takes place in different ways — through the majesty of creation, through the words of Holy Scripture, and through the gift of the church. While each of these ways is named in today's readings, the sermon explores the role Scripture plays in revelation and the critical need for interpretation. As we listen for God's voice speaking through the received tradition, we pray for wisdom and understanding, we sing songs of praise to the God who labors tirelessly to extend love and light to us, and we respond with a renewed desire to help others embrace God's gifts.

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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."*

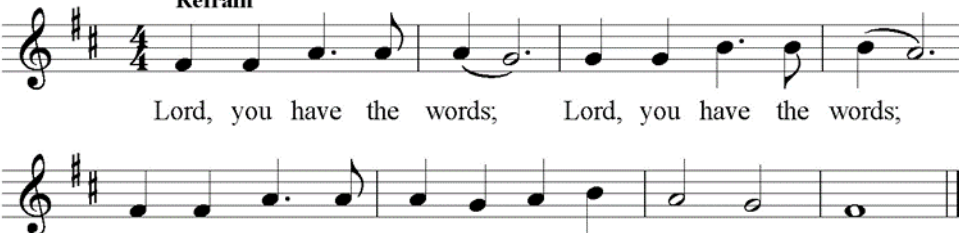
The Prelude

"Voluntary on ELLACOMBE"  
John Leavitt

Maureen Howell

Leader (first), All (on repeats):

**Refrain**



Lord, you have the words; Lord, you have the words;

Lord, you have the words of ev - er - last - ing life.

LEADER: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

PEOPLE: **Day and night God speaks through the wonders of the heavens.**

LEADER: The sun and moon, the planets and stars speak of the vastness and the wonder of the universe.

PEOPLE: **Their voice goes throughout the earth proclaiming the artistry of God in creation.**

LEADER: The word of God speaks to God's glory.

PEOPLE: **Page after page God is revealed through inspired words.** [Refrain]

LEADER: The commandments and prophets, the parables and church letters speak of God's steadfast love and mercy.

PEOPLE: **The wisdom of God's word is more valuable than gold; it brings riches that money cannot buy.**

LEADER: Therefore, may we listen with an open heart to hear God speak in nature and through the scriptures.

PEOPLE: **And then let the words of my mouth and the actions from my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.** [Refrain]

1. I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun - tains rise,  
 2. I sing the good - ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;  
 3. There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes your glo - ries known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.  
 he formed the crea - tures with his word and then pro - nounced them good.  
 and clouds a - rise and tem - pests blow by or - der from your throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule by day;  
 Lord, how your won - ders are dis - played wher - e'er I turn my eye,  
 while all that bor - rows life from you is ev - er in your care,

the moon shines full at his com - mand and all the stars o - bey.  
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!  
 and ev - ery - where that I may be, you, God, are pres - ent there.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE  
 C.M.D.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Wyatt Yelverton

**Blessed Lord, you have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Hebrew Bible

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

When the seventh month came — the people of Israel being settled in their towns — <sup>1</sup>all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Anthem

“This Little Light of Mine”  
Trad. Spiritual/Ken Berg, arr.

Choir Ensemble  
John Holley, viola

This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m going to let it shine.  
All through the night, I’m going to let it shine.

## 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.**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion

“Come, Living Christ, and Be Our Word”

FOREST GREEN

Come, living Christ, and be our Word,  
the story that we sing,  
that ev’rywhere our voice is heard,  
your Spirit’s song will ring.  
As voices join the joyful sound,  
each with a part to raise,  
we move as one, together bound:  
Christ’s body, born in praise.

Come, living Christ, in all we do  
make us your flesh and bone;  
so we may live and work in you  
that through us you are known.  
Let us be peace for ev’ryone,  
and hope amidst despair;  
let us be joy for those with none,  
and love beyond compare.

Come, living church, be born again,  
as body, word, and sign.  
Bring healing to a world of pain,  
restoring God’s design.  
Reflect what earth is meant to be:  
creation reconciled;  
and live your new identity  
as God’s beloved child.

Text: Adam Tice, 2007

Music: Trad. English

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Why Interpretation Matters”

## 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

### “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

### BREAD OF LIFE

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst  
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as thou didst  
3. Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me, thy ho - ly  
4. O send thy Spir - it, Lord, now un - to me, that he may

break the loaves be - side the sea; be - yond the sa - cred page  
bless the bread by Gal - i - lee; then shall all bond - age cease,  
Word the truth that sav - eth me; give me to eat and live  
touch my eyes and make me see: show me the truth con - cealed

I seek thee, Lord, my spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing Word.  
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All in all.  
with thee a - bove; teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.  
with - in thy Word, and in thy Book re - vealed I see thee, Lord.

WORDS: St. 1-2, Mary A. Lathbury, 1877; st. 3-4, Alexander Groves, 1913  
MUSIC: William F. Sherwin, 1877

BREAD OF LIFE  
6.4.6.4.D.

## 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

### “Postlude on FOREST GREEN” Alice Jordan

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.



**The Call to Worship** is adapted from F. Timothy Moore, from Faithelement Resources for Worship, faithelement.net.

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The Deacon on Call is Wyatt Yelverton. An 11-year member of First Baptist, Wyatt serves on the Music Ministries and the Weekday Preschool Councils and is an assistant to the Grade School Choir. Wyatt is also a member of the Sanctuary Choir and the Grains of Sand Class. He and his wife Hollis have two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth.

In the event of inclement weather, cancellation information about scheduled activities will be noted on a recorded greeting obtained by calling the office at 919-832-4485. Information will also be supplied to: WRAL-TV (1st Baptist, Salisbury St), WTVD-TV (First Baptist Church–Salisbury St.), and posted on our home page and on social media (Twitter and Facebook).

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 January 20, 163 pledge cards totaling \$1,228,333 have been received.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$4,698 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](mailto:whager@fbcraleigh.org)) and he will go over options with you.

Church Conference: Wednesday, January 26, in person and via Zoom: meal served at 5:00 p.m., meeting at 6:15 p.m. You can find the Zoom link in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

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 January 26: grilled chicken, sweet potatoes, and broccoli.

The Baptists on Missions Honduran ministry trip is scheduled for March 14–21. The cost is \$500 per person — which covers food, lodging and ground transportation — plus airfare. Our project is house construction. If you are interested in going, contact Steve Brown (919-349-4984) or John Baldwin (919-600-9124).

The churchwide retreat at Caswell will be held on April 22–24. Space is limited so contact Lynn Lingafelt ([llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org)) no later than February 13. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

## Calendar Highlights

### January 23–30

#### Sunday, January 23

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacons' Meeting (220/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (302)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth Program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)

#### Monday, January 24

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open

#### Tuesday, January 25

- 10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 6:30 High School Bible Study (Wade Home)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School Class (Zoom)

#### Wednesday, January 26

- 5:00 Meal Served (Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Mission Friends/RAs/GAs
- 6:15 Church Conference (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Middle School Small Group (Blue Room)
- 6:45 Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:50 Music for Children
- 7:30 Ensemble Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)

#### Thursday, January 27

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 6:30 College Group (Garth/318)
- 7:30 ITC Meeting (Conference Room)

#### Sunday, January 30

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (302)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth Program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)