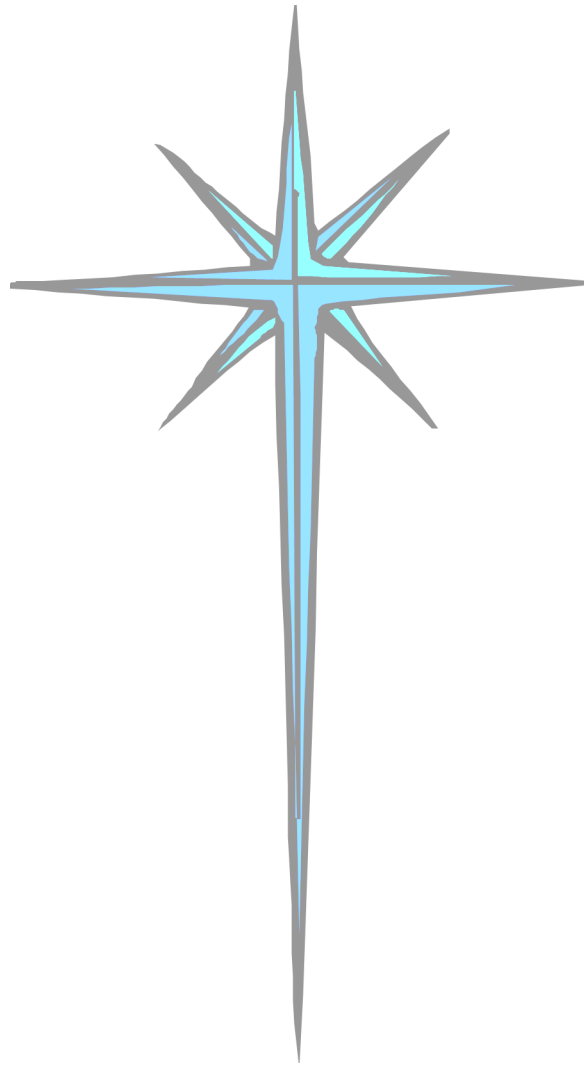


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 9, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 9, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Baptism of the Lord in the Christian year, a traditional part of the season after Epiphany in which we focus on God's manifestation of light and love for the whole world. The texts focus on Jesus' baptism, baptism in the early church, and the ways God has blessed God's people throughout all generations. The hymns, choral music, and organ literature reflect these themes, as do the prayers for the day. The sermon explores the concept of blessing in more detail. While it is a biblical concept, its use in casual conversation often cheapens its nature and reflects a limited view of God's love. God's intent is to bless all people, indeed, all of creation. Baptism is a sign of this reality, as it is not only an act of faith on the candidate's part, but an experience of God's favor. As Jesus rises from the waters of baptism, he is filled with Spirit and claimed as God's Son, the Beloved. We too are beloved children of God, called by name, created for glory, formed and made by God.

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

"Wade in the Water!"
William Farley Smith

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

based upon Psalm 29

LEADER: Give praise to the Lord and glorify God's name.

PEOPLE: **Worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

LEADER: Hear the sound of God's voice, calling above the waters.

PEOPLE: **Hear the call of the earth crying "Glory!"**

LEADER: The voice of the Lord echoes in all creation.

PEOPLE: **The sound of the Lord's call is heard in our hearts.**

ALL: **Let us give praise to the Lord and glorify God's name.**

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 - oner 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.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
 C.M.

The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 43:1-7

Karen Poteat

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“At the River”

Choir Ensemble

Aaron Copland, arr.

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angels' feet have trod,
 With it's crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
 Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful river,
 Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.
 Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
 Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
 Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful river,
 Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

— Robert Lowry, 1864

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.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

“John Was Preaching in the Desert”

NETTLETON

**John was preaching in the desert,
calling people to repent.
When they heard his word of judgment,
many wondered what it meant.
John said, "Someone who is greater
comes with fire and Spirit, too.
See! I baptize you with water;
he will make your whole life new."

Jesus went down to the Jordan —
to be baptized on that day.
All at once, the heavens opened
as he paused to humbly pray.
Then a voice came down from heaven —
with the Spirit, like a dove.
At those waters, God affirmed him —
God's beloved, sent to love.**

— Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2019

The Sermon

“Exploring the Concept of Blessing”

Christopher Chapman

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.

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head,
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place,

born of his Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our
 for we have known it, the love of God out - poured; now
 called to o - bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he
 formed in great weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we

cor - ner - stone is Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O
 let us learn how to re - turn the gift of love once given: O
 wills us be a fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O
 die a - lone, for on its own each em - ber los - es fire: yet

let us live trans - par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es Heaven.
 let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

WORDS: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976
 MUSIC: Johannes Brahms, 1877; arr. Fred Bock, 1976
 © 1976 Fred Bock Music Company

SYMPHONY
 11.11.14.8.9.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Congregational Response (sung by all)

**On this day when we remember
how our Savior was baptized,
God, we pause and pray and wonder
at the ways you change our lives.
As your Son went through the waters,
We rejoice! We're baptized, too.
We are called your sons and daughters;
may we go out serving you.**

— Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2019

*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

“Voluntary on NETTLETON”
Diane Bish

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Karen Poteat. A 25-year member of First Baptist, Karen is a leader for the Grades 3–5 GAs, the director of the Youth Division of Sunday School, and a member of the Formations class. She and her husband Will have three sons — Zachary, Jacob, and Isaac — and one daughter, Olivia.

The Sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Audrey and Tom Bray by their children, Angela and Tommy Bray.

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 6, 158 pledge cards totaling \$1,140,353 have been received.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$4,223 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 12: meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. This week, we continue our study, “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 critical sense, using the resources of scholarship to become active students of the questions that reading the Bible raises.

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 12: breakfast! Grits, sausage, eggs, biscuits, and potatoes.

2022 Church Conference dates: mark your calendar now! January 26, February 23, March 30, May 25, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16, and December 14.

The churchwide retreat at Caswell will be held on April 22–24. Space is limited so contact Lynn Lingafelt (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org) now. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*, available on the homepage of our website (www.fbcraleigh.org).

Calendar Highlights

January 9–16

Sunday, January 9

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

Monday, January 10

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

Tuesday, January 11

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

Wednesday, January 12

- 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 Ensemble Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 16

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