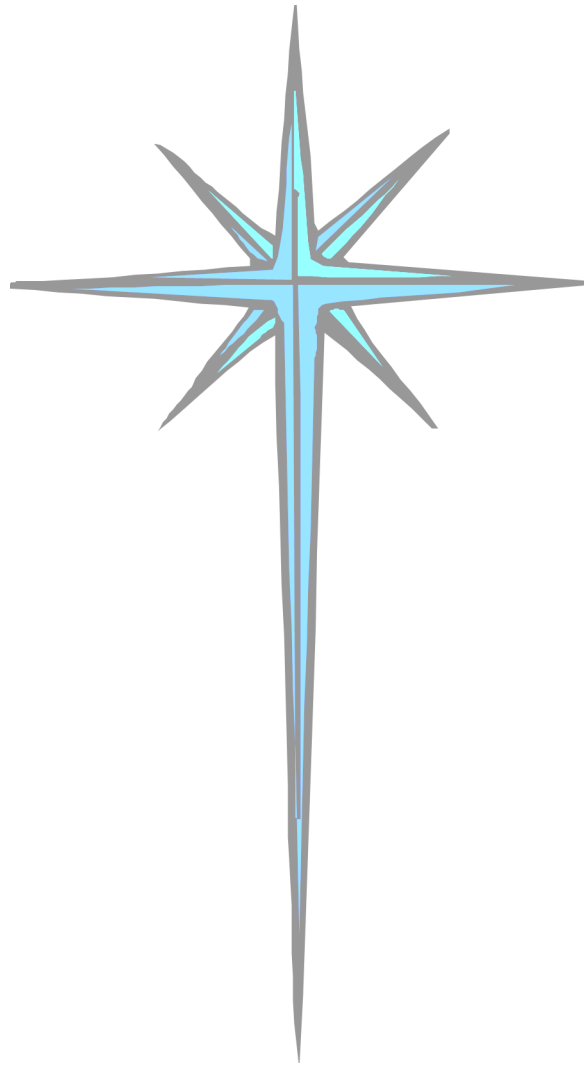


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 20, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 20, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we reflect upon God's manifestation of light and love to the world. The texts point to challenging dimensions of this light and love as Joseph extends kindness to brothers who sold him into slavery and Jesus calls us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. It seems like pure madness, but since the love God extends to us is unlimited, it seems profoundly ungrateful to place limits on our love. We sing hymns that proclaim God's mercy and love, we offer prayers of love for the world, and we explore in more detail Jesus' calling to love the enemy. But the genuineness of our worship is found not in how well we participate in these elements, but in how much we grow in our capacity to love.

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

"Come, Thou Fount"
Aaron David Miller arr.

Sue Crocker

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 37

LEADER: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

PEOPLE: **for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.**

LEADER: Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

PEOPLE: **Take delight in the Lord who will give you the desires of your heart.**

LEADER: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

PEOPLE: **For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.**

LEADER: Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more.

PEOPLE: **But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight in abundant prosperity.**

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my *Eb-en-e-zer, hith-er by thy help I've come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise his name—I'm fixed up-on it—name of God's re-deem-ing love.
 he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, bought me with his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

* 1 Samuel 7:12

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional American melody; John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Sonia Moore

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing”

Women’s Ensemble

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing Our great Redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!
All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever,
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, Praise Him forever.
Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever.
So let us all praise God and Sing Our great Redeemer's praise;
That we may all with one accord Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!

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.**

The Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bles those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Unison

1. Not for tongues of heav-en's an - gels, not for wis-dom to dis -
 2. Love is hum - ble, love is gen - tle, love is ten - der, true and
 3. Nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er self - ish, love will not re - joice in
 4. In the day this world is fad - ing faith and hope will play their

cern, not for faith that mas - ters moun - tains— for this
 kind: love is gra - cious, ev - er pa - tient, gen - er -
 wrong: nev - er boast - ful nor re - sent - ful, love be -
 part; but when Christ is seen in glo - ry love shall

bet - ter gift we yearn: may love be ours, O Lord.
 ous of heart and mind— may love be ours, O Lord.
 lieves and suf - fers long— may love be ours, O Lord.
 reign in ev - ery heart: may love be ours, O Lord.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1985; para. of 1 Corinthians 13
 MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1969
 Words © 1985 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

BRIDEGROOM
 8.7.8.7.6.

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Pure Madness or Holy Insight?”

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. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1862
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1878

WELLESLEY
8.7.8.7.

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

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
John Behnke arr.

Sue Crocker

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Sonia Moore. A 55-year member of First Baptist, Sonia is a teacher for the John Hiott Sunday School class, the leader of Group 2 of the WMU at Springmoor and a group at Independent Village, and a central founder of the clothing ministry. She has four children and five grandchildren.

The sanctuary flowers are given by Peggy Frisbie in loving memory of her husband Jim on their wedding anniversary of February 25.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the February 2 birth of Dylan Blayne Brown, son of Philip and Adair-Hayes Brown, and grandson of Steve and Regina Brown.

We're grateful for Sue Crocker's leadership this morning as the Howells are with Franklin Baptist Church in Franklin, VA, as part of the church's 150th anniversary celebration. Warren and Maureen served on staff at the church from 1988-1995.

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).

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$6,643 toward our goal of \$20,000.

Church Conference: Wednesday, February 23, in person and via Zoom: meal served at 5:00pm, meeting at 6:15pm. 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), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485), all by noon on Mondays. Menu for February 23: Meatball Night (served with rice)!

The Sanctuary Choir resumes rehearsals this Wednesday, February 23, at 7:30pm. Contact Warren Howell (whowell@fbcraleigh.org) with your questions and interest. Vaccination against COVID-19 remains a requirement for participation.

The Ash Wednesday service will be held on March 2 at 6:45pm. A meal will be served at 5:00pm. Please remember to make your meal reservations.

Calendar Highlights

February 20–27

Sunday, February 20

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

Monday, February 21

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (301)

Tuesday, February 22

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

Wednesday, February 23

- 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 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 24

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 6:30 High School Bible Study (Wade Home)

Sunday, February 27

- 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)