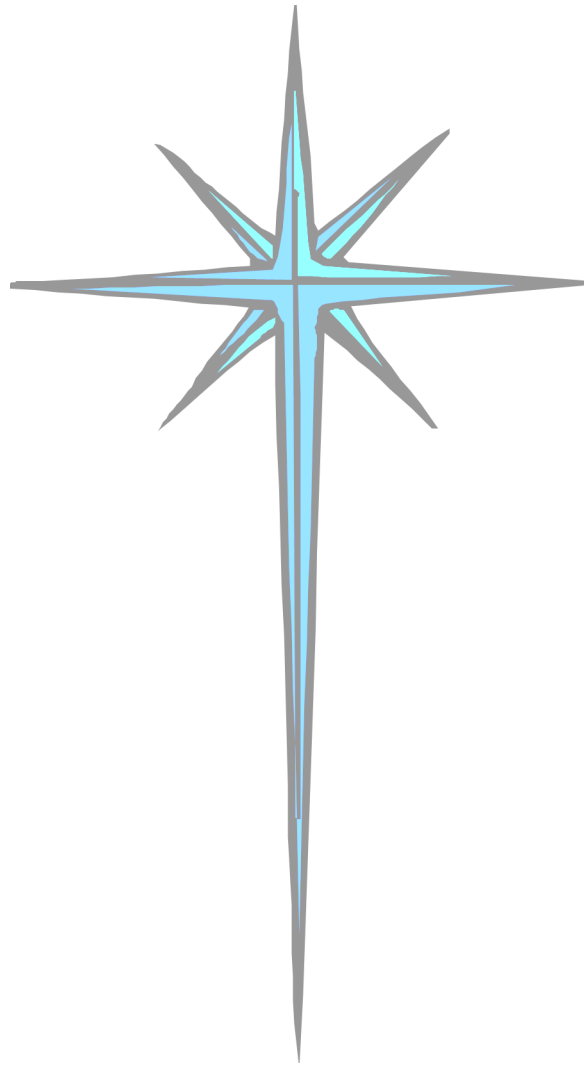


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 27, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 27, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Transfiguration Sunday, the day we remember the story about the experience three disciples had on a mountain with Jesus wherein he was transformed and a voice spoke to them from a cloud. It is the last Sunday before Lent begins, a last glimpse of glory before a season of penitence and reflection, yet also a foretaste of things to come. We sing hymns and an anthem that point to the mysterious yet revealing nature of transfiguration, we offer prayers for our own transformation, and the sermon explores the hopeful place of this story in the Christian year. Though we are headed into the dark and difficult journey of Lent, a season to ponder the way of the cross, lights shines all around us, the light of God's love, illumining the way.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

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

"Simple Gifts"
Shaker Tune

Young Musicians' Bells
Ginger Graves, dir.
Cady Mercer, flute

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 99

LEADER: The Lord is sovereign; let the peoples tremble!

PEOPLE: **God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

LEADER: Mighty Sovereign, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

PEOPLE: **Extol the Lord; worship at God's footstool. Holy is the Lord!**

LEADER: Moses and Aaron were priests and Samuel also called on God.

PEOPLE: **They cried to the Lord and God answered them.**

LEADER: God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

PEOPLE: **they kept God's decrees and the statutes that the Lord gave them.**

LEADER: O Lord our God, you answered them; you are forgiving but also an avenger of wrong.

PEOPLE: **Extol the Lord and worship at God's holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.**

The Moment of Reflection

"Song of Gladness"
Arnold B. Sherman

Evening Bells

The Invocation

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Libby Barnes

God of light and love, reveal yourself to us today through the words of Holy Scripture, the gift of sacred music, and the companionship of fellow believers. Open our ears, that we might hear your voice speaking to us. Open our hearts and minds, that we might listen to your guidance. Transform us, as you transformed Christ on the mountain, that our true character might shine through for others to see. In the name of your Son, your Chosen, we pray, amen.

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 34:29–35

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

¹Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

French Carol/Alfred V. Fedak, arr.

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
 You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 You, peacemaker and swordbringer
 of the way you took and gave.
 You the everlasting instant;
 You, whom we both scorn and crave.
 Clothed in light upon the mountain,
 stripped of might upon the cross,
 shining in eternal glory,
 beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
 You, the everlasting instant;
 You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
 sit in power at God's side.
 You, who preach a way that's narrow,
 have a love that reaches wide.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 You, who are our pilgrim guide.
 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
 Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
 Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.
 Worthy still your peace and strife.
 You, the everlasting instant;
 You, who are our death and life. Alleluia.

— Sylvia Dunstan

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 9:28–36

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. Christ up - on the moun-tain peak stands a - lone in
 2. Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
 3. Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing
 4. This is God's be - lov - ed Son: law and proph - ets



glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
 li - jah speak - ing; all the proph - ets and the law
 in the thun - der Je - sus as his Son by name;
 fade be - fore him; First and Last, and on - ly One,



with the saints and an - gels praise him: Al-le-lu - ia!
 shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing: Al-le-lu - ia!
 na - tions cry a - loud in won - der! Al-le-lu - ia!
 let cre - a - tion now a - dore him! Al-le-lu - ia!

Words: Brian Wren, 1962
 Music: Warren Howell, 1986

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“A Perspective on Transfiguration We Can Embrace”

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. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me;
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear,
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

place in my hands the won - der - ful key : that shall un - clasp and
 and while the wave - notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will
 o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare : love with thy chil - dren

Refrain

set me free.
 dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
 thus to share.

will to see; o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see; o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 will to see; o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

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

"Festival Voluntary"
Flor Peeters

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Libby Barnes. A 40-year member of First Baptist, Libby serves on the Hospitality Committee and the Advisory Board for *Housing All*. She and her husband Walt have two children, Liz Barnes and Cmdr. Chip Barnes, (Ret.) USN, and one granddaughter Hallie.

The banner is sponsored today with a donation to the Day Mission Fund by Charles and Jamie Petty in honor of our mission teams.

Today, with great joy we welcome the Rev. Leah Reed back from her maternity leave and offer our continuing support to her, Chad, and Jennings, as they transition into a new normal rhythm of life!

Sympathy to Berti Stevens on the February 21 death of her brother Bob Day.

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.

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. Childcare is provided during the service.

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 March 2: penne primavera with dinner rolls.

Family Promise Week is March 6–13. If you would like to sign up to take meals to the families supported by this ministry, please contact Holly Ivel (hollyivel92@gmail.com). More details in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

UPDATE ON COVID PROTOCOLS AT FBC: The risk management team, in consultation with the church staff, has decided that, given our community’s progress with regard to the Omicron variant of COVID-19, and in the absence of any unforeseen setbacks, we can transition to a masks-optional policy beginning on Monday, March 7. Masks will still be required in the preschool area because of state and federal recommendations. But we are cautiously optimistic that we can begin this transition toward normalcy, a step at a time, as we transitioned into established COVID protocols.

“Masks-optional” means that individuals and groups, including Sunday School classes, can make their own decisions. Many of our members will continue to wear masks for various reasons. We will also continue to follow other protocols, like cleaning surfaces and hands, for the foreseeable future. And we will monitor the data along with recommendations from the NC DHHS and the CDC.

We appreciate our congregation’s patience and well-demonstrated commitment to acting not only in our best interest but in the best interest of our neighbors. We are all long past ready for change, but we want to take this small amount of extra time to prepare for the transition and make sure the number of positive tests and hospitalizations continue to trend downward.

Calendar Highlights
February 27–March 6

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)

Monday, February 28

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

Tuesday, March 1

- 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, March 2

- 5:00 Meal Served (Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Mission Friends/RAs/GAs
Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:45 Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 3

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

Sunday, March 16

- 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)