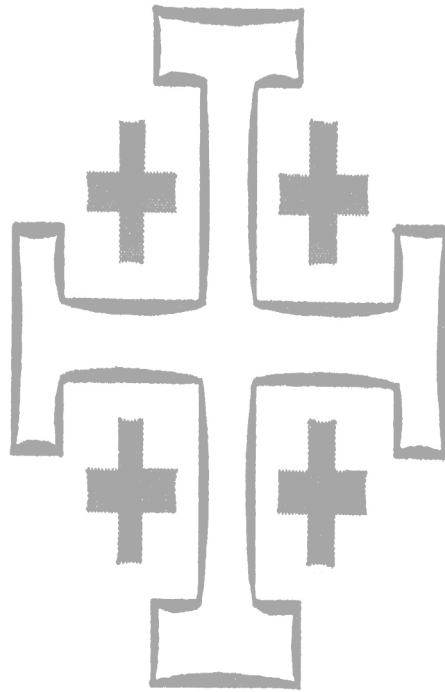


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 20, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 20, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on the way to the cross. We continue to create time for confession, acknowledging our struggle to embrace this path, and we read texts that call us to repentance. The sermon explores two themes of these texts, especially the reading from Luke — the assurance of grace and the sense of urgency. As we continue to make progress with the pandemic, we are delighted to be led in music by children, youth, and adults.

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

“Gather Us In”
Jeanne Cotter

Maureen Howell
piano

The Introit

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”
Mark A. Miller

Youth Choir
Cady Mercer, solo

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
God has told you, O mortal what is good. What does the Lord require of you?
I want to know. Justice! Kindness! Walk humbly with your God!

—Micah 6:6,8

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 63

LEADER: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

PEOPLE: **my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

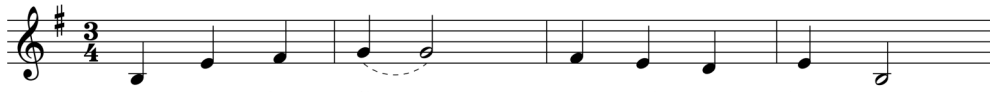
LEADER: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

PEOPLE: **Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

LEADER: So I will bless you as long as I live;

PEOPLE: **I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

The Invocation



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
 2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
 3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
 4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
 5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
 Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
 Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
 Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.



Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
 Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
 Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



light for the world to see.
 Make us your liv - ing voice.
 shared un - til all are fed.
 walls made of liv - ing stone.
 mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

We seek now not simply to turn away from sin but to turn toward abundant life, not simply to leave destructive paths but to pursue productive ones, not simply to abandon emptiness but to find purpose. We do so in full assurance of God's mercy, trusting that God will respond to our vulnerability with welcoming arms of love.

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

Our thoughts are not your thoughts, O God, nor are our ways your ways. We spend our money for that which is not bread and our labor for that which does not satisfy. We invest our lives in treasure that does not endure. We allow the values of this world to shape us rather than allowing your love and justice to work through us in transforming the world. Hear our confession of wrongdoing and our desire for something better. Turn our eyes from what should not have been to what can be. Stir our hearts and free our hands to reach out to others.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! There is mercy for all who seek it. God pardons abundantly. God sees the desire deep within our hearts to please God and requires not perfection but openness to change. Thanks be to God for this gift!

The Act of Praise

"We Are Forgiven"

Hal Hopson

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for -
giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 55:1-9

Beth Yerxa

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

1. All the way my Sav - ior leads me; what have I to ask be - side?
 2. All the way my Sav - ior leads me, cheers each wind - ing path I tread,
 3. All the way my Sav - ior leads me; O the full - ness of his love!

Can I doubt his ten - der mer - cy, who through life has been my guide?
 gives me grace for ev - ery tri - al, feeds me with the liv - ing bread;
 Per - fect rest to me is prom - ised in my Fa - ther's house a - bove;

Heaven - ly peace, di - vin - est com - fort, here by faith in him to dwell,
 though my wea - ry steps may fal - ter, and my soul a - thirst may be,
 when my spir - it, clothed im - mor - tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

for I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well;
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see;
 this my song through end - less a - ges, "Je - sus led me all the way";

for I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see.
 this my song through end - less a - ges, "Je - sus led me all the way."

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 13:1–9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Love Is Little”
Kevin Siegfried, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Love is little, love is low
love will make my spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light.
Love will do the thing that's right.

— Shaker Song, 1834

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Our Need for Grace and a Sense of Urgency”

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.

We ask that the elementary-grade choir members meet in the Narthex during the first stanza of the hymn.

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
 3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;
 4. Through man - y dan-gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
 5. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,
 I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779, alt.; st. 5, anonymous
MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
C.M.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Dream Team Reminder

Mary Nash Rusher

The Benediction

“Go Now in Peace”

Children’s and Youth Choirs

Natalie Sleeth

Orff Instruments; Becky Mercer, dir.

Go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere you may go.

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

“Amazing Grace”

Maureen Howell

Mark Hayes

piano

*The congregation may stand.

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The tunes and texts of “All the Way My Savior Leads Me” and “Amazing Grace” are in the public domain.

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Thanks to Anna Anderson (organ on Amazing Grace), Becky Mercer (flute) & Will Mercer (bass guitar) for sharing their gifts today.

The Deacon on Call is Beth Yerxa. A 15-year member, Beth is a member of the Sharing Thoughts class. She and her husband, Ben, have three children: Mattie, Daniel and Anna.

The sanctuary banner is placed today by the Dickens and Brickell families in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Chamblee whose birthday was March 20. Carolyn and Myra were homebound visitors to Mrs. Chamblee and they loved every visit with her. A donation is given to the Day Mission Fund.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$6,918 toward our goal of \$20,000.

CBF has established a relief fund in response to the crisis in Ukraine. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details; you may donate at their website (www.cbfblog.com/2022/02/28/cbf-establishes-ukraine-relief-fund/).

We are collecting children’s clothes (Kindergarten through 12th grade) for *Note in the Pocket* all through March. Used clothing is welcome as long as it is clean and in good condition. Socks, underwear, or shoes need to be new. Put your donations in the marked bin in the Lewis Lobby anytime during the month.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 23, in person and via Zoom; meal served at 5:00pm, program at 6:15pm. This week, we will conclude our series with Timothy Brock exploring the interaction between art and Christian spirituality. Dr. Brock will introduce and illustrate the use of visio divina, a process of spiritual reflection on artistic images. See *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

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 23: beef stroganoff with green beans.

Dream Team World Café: Sunday, March 27, at 9:30am, in the Fellowship Hall: Out of a desire to maximize involvement in our dreaming process, we’ll meet during the Sunday School hour for the last major congregational conversation. This will be an intergenerational event involving elementary-age children, youth, and adults. You can find records of the Dream Team’s work thus far on the members-only hub of the church website. We are excited about the possibilities ahead and this opportunity to explore them in more detail.

Easter is April 17. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of Easter lilies for our sanctuary, with the remaining funds benefitting the Day Mission Fund. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or by following the link in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Wednesday, April 6.

Calendar Highlights

March 20–27

Sunday, March 20

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (226)
- 12:00 GA Tea (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth Program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)

Monday, March 21

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 6:00 MMiH Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)

Tuesday, March 22

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

Wednesday, March 23

- 5:00 Meal Served (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Mission Friends/RAs/GAs
Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Middle School Small Group (Blue Room)
- 6:45 Children's Music (302/Music Suite)
- 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary/Choir Room)

Thursday, March 24

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 6:30 HS Bible Study (Wade home)

Sunday, March 27

- 9:30 Dream Team (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (226)
- 12:00 RA Car Race (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:15 Deacons' Meeting (220/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (Choir Room)