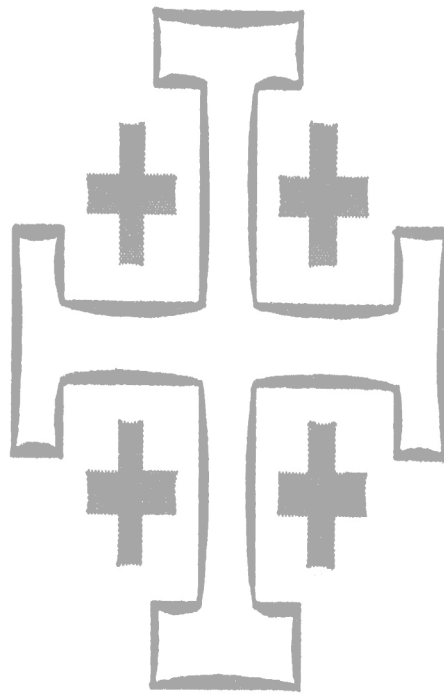


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 27, 2022

# THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27, 2022

Eleven fifteen o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on the way to the cross. The texts throughout this season have emphasized faithfulness in waiting, something we have all been challenged to consider during a two-year pandemic. Today we explore what is often called the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but it might be more accurately described as the Parable of the Loving Father. For in this story it is God who waits, and not just for one son to return home, but for the other to come in and join the celebration. Each son is prodigal in his own way. In fact, even the father, representing God, is “prodigal” in the sense of being lavish, reckless even, in his love. We celebrate this reckless love today through hymns of praise, prayers of confession and thanksgiving, and a brief homiletical reflection on how we might finish this story that is not quite as complete as we might think. It is our responsibility to finish the story both in the literal sense of the text and in our lives.

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### GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

The Trinity Chimes

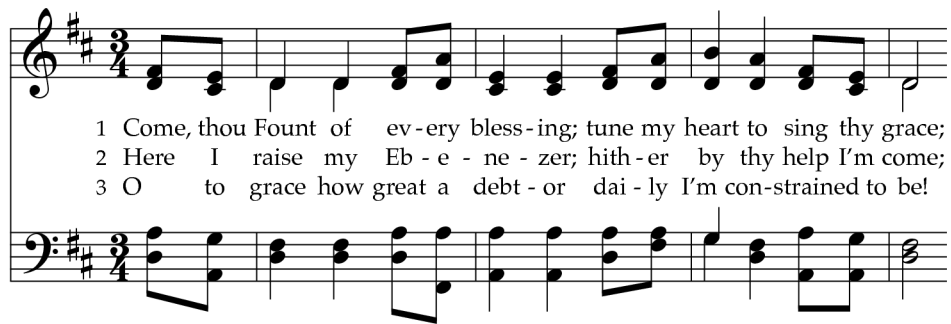
*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship.”*

The Prelude

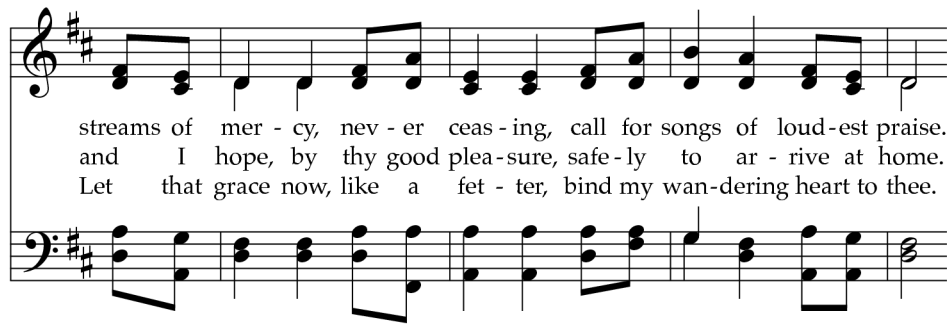
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
Paul Manz

Maureen Howell

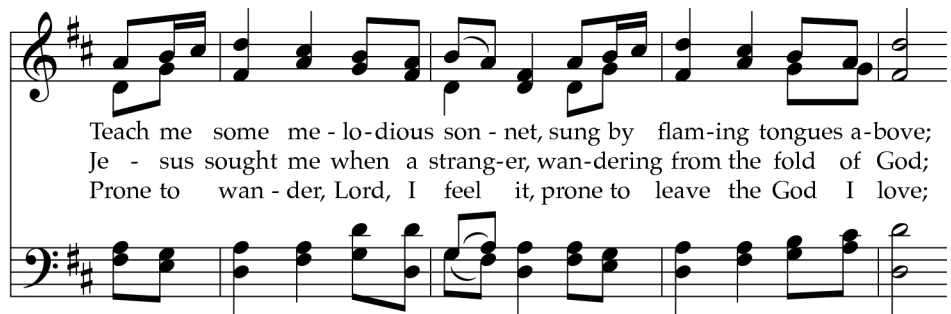
The Invocation



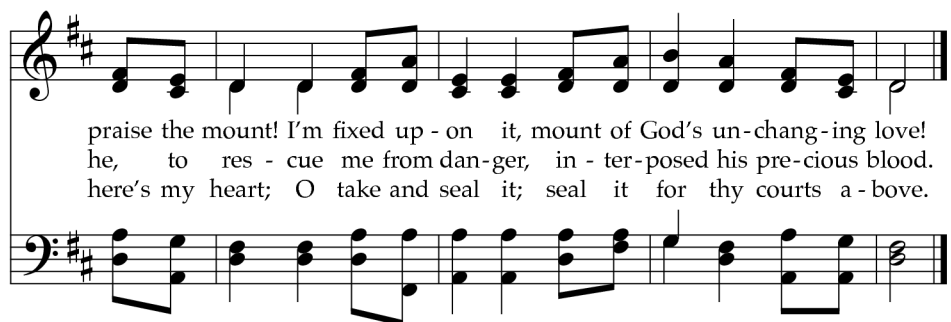
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



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 that grace now, 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 strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.  
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON  
 8.7.8.7.D

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

### The Call to Confession

from Psalm 32

LEADER: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

PEOPLE: **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

LEADER: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

PEOPLE: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

LEADER: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

PEOPLE: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

### The Silent Confession

### The Assurance of Pardon

### 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 Christian Testament

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Jeff Mercer

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*\*(Singing):*

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than  
hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;  
life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is  
ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is  
ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

Text: Desmond Tutu, 1994  
Music: John L. Bell, 1996

## 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 15:1–3, 11b–32

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## “Finishing the Story”

## 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 Anthem/Hymn

## “You Do Not Walk Alone”

Elaine Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir

Beth McCollum, violin

May you see God's light on the path ahead  
 when the road you walk is dark.  
 May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow,  
 the gentle singing of the lark.  
 When times are hard may hardness  
 never turn your heart to stone.  
 May you always remember when the shadows fall  
 you do not walk alone.

— Traditional Irish Blessing

**\*(Congregation to join on stanza 2)**

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose  
 2. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your  
 3. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev - er child - like, no cares can de - stroy: Be  
 hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace: Be  
 voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm: Be



there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your  
 there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1931  
 Music: Traditional Irish

## 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 in C”

Maureen Howell

Bryan Kelly

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jeff Mercer. A 24-year member of First Baptist, Jeff is a teacher for Grains of Sand Sunday School class. He and his wife Becky have two children, Will and Cady.

The banner on the pulpit is given in loving memory of Gertrude and William Lassiter by their sons, John and Charles Lassiter, with a donation to the Day Mission Fund.

Sympathy to Lou Lolley on the March 21 death of her husband, Dr. Randall Lolley, and to Tara Mann on the death of her father, Marvin Mann.

Please be in prayer for the 12 students and 4 chaperones who are on the high school retreat to Christmount this weekend.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$6,998 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/](http://www.cbfblog.com/2022/02/28/cbf-establishes-ukraine-relief-fund/)).

We are collecting children’s clothes for *Note in the Pocket* during March. Used clothing is welcome as long as it is clean and in good condition; socks, underwear, and shoes need to be new. Put your donations in the marked bin in the Lewis Lobby.

Dr. Chapman will be out of the office from Monday, March 28, through Tuesday, April 5. Michael Hood will be preaching at the April 3 service.

Church Conference: Wednesday, March 30, in person and via Zoom; meal served at 5:00pm, meeting at 6:15pm. See *Rose Window Weekly* for Zoom link and documents.

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). Menu for March 30: baked chicken with potatoes and corn.

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.

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## **Calendar Highlights**

### **March 27–April 3**

#### Sunday, March 27

- 9:30 Dream Team (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 Japanese Worship (226)
- 11:15 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
- 12:00 RA Car Race (301/302)
- 12:15 Deacons' Meeting (Fellowship Hall/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:00 MS Hangout (Blue Room)

#### Monday, March 28

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

#### Tuesday, March 29

- 10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

#### Wednesday, March 30

- 5:00 Meal Served (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Mission Friends/RAs/GAs  
Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:15 Church Conference (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 31

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

#### Sunday, April 3

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Michael Hood preaching (Sanctuary & YouTube)  
Japanese Worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (FH)
- 6:30 Youth Program (FH/Blue Room)