

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 24, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the second Sunday of Easter, a week after the high and holy celebration of the resurrection. Today's worship will focus on the gospel of John's telling of Jesus returning to the disciples after his resurrection. We will take a closer look into the story of Thomas and his experience with Jesus in the days that follow the resurrection, charting a different path than the other disciples. Perhaps Thomas' questions should be viewed less like some sort of spiritual flaw or weakness, and more as a path toward a deeper, experiential faith. The story of Thomas opens our eyes to a faith that is not necessarily straightforward, but one that longs for more. We are reminded that we serve a God that honors our questions, and doubts, as we find ourselves in this week after the tomb.

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

"Christ Is Alive"
J. Wayne Kerr

Sue Crocker

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Thomas, the skeptical.
Thomas the doubter.

PEOPLE: **Thomas, the Gospel's stand-in
for a big, wide, bewildered world.**

LEADER: A world which thinks,
A world which wonders,

PEOPLE: **A world which doubts a God
who could possibly love it so.**

LEADER: Thomas requires proof.
Thomas trusts but verifies.

PEOPLE: **Refusing to say he believes what he does not believe.**

LEADER: Refusing to say he understands what he does not understand.

PEOPLE: **Then Jesus came and stood beside him and said,
"Peace be with you— Thomas, see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into my side.
Stop doubting and believe."**

LEADER: Revelation written on his face,
he speaks, confessing:
My Lord and my God.

PEOPLE: **Let us now praise a God who indeed so loved the world.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own;
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied;
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died and rose on high,
 no an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! for thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851; and Godfrey Thring, st. 2, 1874
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 S.M.D.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 5:27-32

Jud DeBra

²⁷When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation to join on repeat)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Celtic Alleluia
Finton O'Carroll, & Christopher Walker, 1985

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 Anthem

“Now the Green Blade Rises”
 Hal Hopson, arr.

Sanctuary Choir
 Sue Crocker, dir.

Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain; wheat that in dark earth many days has lain. Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat arising green. In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again. Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat arising green. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain; Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen: Love is come again like wheat arising green. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again. Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John M.C. Crum, 1928, alt.
 Music: French Carol, 15th cent

The Gospel

John 20:19–29

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

LAND OF REST

**We walk by faith, and not by sight, no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.**

**We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.**

**For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the Word, beneath the bread and wine.**

**Lord, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are with full and endless sight.**

Text: Henry Alford, 1844

Music: American Folk Tune

The Sermon

“The Scars Tell the Story”

Leah Reed

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.

Descant

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I

so shall I nev - er die, but live the

life a - new, that I may love what
 heart is pure, un - til my will is
 whol - ly thine, un - til this earth - ly
 nev - er die, but live with thee the

per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 one with thine, to do and to en - dure.
 part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878
 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1894; desc. Donald P. Hustad, 1989
 Desc. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

TRENTHAM
 S.M.

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

“Now the Green Blade Riseth”
Mark Sedio

Sue Crocker

*The congregation may stand.

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Please be in prayer for the 95 people returning from the churchwide retreat to Fort Caswell today.

The Deacon on Call is Jud DeBra. Jud is a nineteen-year member of First Baptist and a member of the Finance Committee and the Everette Miller Friendship class. He and his wife Glennis live in Raleigh.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Colonel and Mrs. William T. Joyner by their family.

We thank Sue Crocker for being our guest organist this morning.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. We have received \$7,128 toward our goal of \$20,000.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, April 27, in person and via Zoom; meal served at 5:00pm, program at 6:15pm. Our own Chad Reed, a licensed professional mental health counselor, will talk about the specific challenges to mental health that have affected all of us during the unique stresses of the COVID pandemic. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details and the Zoom link.

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). Menu for April 27: salmon with lemon dill orzo.

A memorial service for Gerri Harris will be held Saturday, April 30, at 2:00pm with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

To facilitate your giving to FBC, use the QR codes below to link to the website for our main electronic giving, VANCO Faith, and the page that lists all our e-giving options and instructions.

Use this QR code to e-give to FBC on line:



Use this code to e-give through PayPal and other options:



Calendar Highlights

April 24–May 1

Sunday, April 24

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

Monday, April 25

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Closed
- 5:00 Deacons' Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:00 MMiH Rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, April 26

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

Wednesday, April 27

- 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 (Choir Room)

Thursday, April 28

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

Saturday, April 30

- 2:00 Memorial Service for Gerri Harris (Sanctuary)
- 3:00 Reception (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, May 1

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