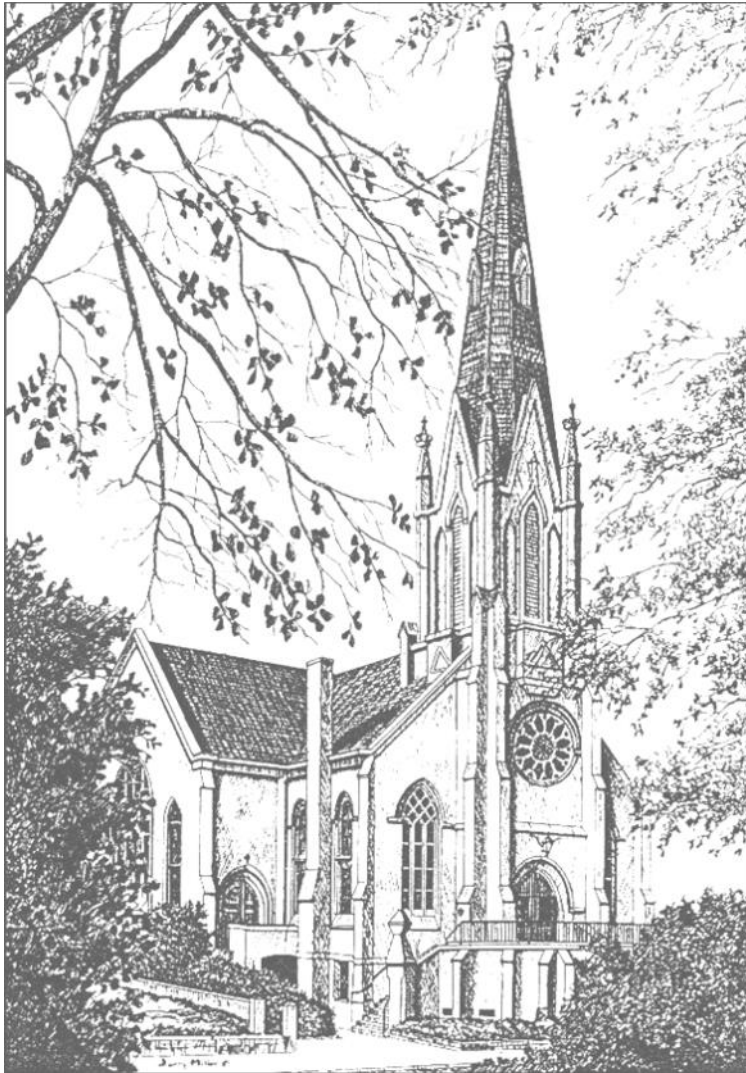


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 20, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 20, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Reign of Christ, the last day of the Christian year, a day in which we celebrate the sovereignty of Christ over all human history, indeed all creation. This is also the week of Thanksgiving and a day we emphasize stewardship. All of these emphases shape our worship today as we sing praise to the Christ who reigns, lift up prayers of thanksgiving, hear thoughtful and challenging words about stewardship, and receive an offering in the traditional way for the first time in over two years. The sermon provides a first-person reflection from one of the men called "criminals" who were crucified alongside Jesus. The choice of this text about crucifixion for the Reign of Christ by the lectionary editors speaks volumes about the nature of Christ's reign.

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

"Now Thank We All Our God"
J.S. Bach (from *Cantata 79*)
Anna Laura Page, arr.

Youth Bells
Rhonda Lowe, piano

The Introit

"This Is the Day"
Robert Lau

Children's Choir
Becky Mercer, flute

This is the day which the Lord has made;
rejoice all believers and be very glad. Alleluia.
Alleluia, We raise our song to praise God's name.
Alleluia, God loves us all the same.

— Psalm 118:24

The Call to Worship (responsive)

From Psalm 46

LEADER: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

PEOPLE: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

LEADER: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

PEOPLE: **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

LEADER: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

PEOPLE: **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

The Invocation (unison)

In a world held captive by fear, O God, you provide refuge and strength, a way to free our hearts and minds from all that unsettles us. At a time when it is easy to get lost in the cacophony of hostile discourse, you speak to us as a gentle shepherd guiding your sheep into folds of peace and justice. Calm us now, as we are still before you. Cleanse us through the gentle breath of your Spirit. Guide us to a more peaceful and just place, that we might share these sacred gifts with all around us and thus give witness to your sovereignty in our lives and world. In the name of the Prince of Peace, our Good Shepherd, Jesus the Christ, we pray, amen.

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858
 MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 23:1–6

J.D. Rhodes

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Colossians 1:11–20

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

Leah Reed

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.**

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“A Thanksgiving Prayer”

Youth Choir

Thank you, Lord, for loving us all.
For your gifts both great and small.
For the faith which keeps us strong,
now we join in thankful song.

For the beauty all around,
every sight and every sound,
for the love and friendship we share,
Lord, we bow in thankful prayer.

Don Besig

We gather together to share in God's blessings:
the colors of autumn, the blossoms of spring,
the gift of creation, the promise of salvation.
For all God's many wonders our thanks now we bring.

Now we join in worship and praise.

Now with joy our voices we raise.

All of us here united this day
offering God all glory and praise. Amen.

— Nancy Price

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Who Is Jesus and What Is the Nature of His Reign?”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Act of Praise (responsive)

Leah Reed

LEADER: Jesus asks, “Who do people say that I am?”

PEOPLE: **His disciples answer, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”**

LEADER: Today we add, “Just a man, a wise teacher, a misguided fool.

PEOPLE: **A leader who reflects my values, a savior who acts according to my terms.”**

LEADER: But then Jesus asks, “But who do you say that I am?” And we reply —

PEOPLE: **God’s beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

LEADER: The image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation.

PEOPLE: **The One in whom all things were created, the head of the church.**

LEADER: “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks.

PEOPLE: **The One in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.**

LEADER: The Alpha and the Omega, the Lamb of God, the One who reigns forever and ever.

PEOPLE: **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!**

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 Hymn of Discipleship

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

Descant

4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
 Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.
 count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824, based on plainsong; desc. Donald P. Hustad, 1989
 Desc. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

HAMBURG
 L.M.

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“We Gather Together”
John Ferguson

Maureen Howell

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

— Thomas Ken, 1709

The Word About Stewardship

Libby Barnes

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 Thank We All Our God”
J.S. Bach (from *Cantata 79*)

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Jim Clary by Margaret, Greg, and Julie; Mark and Amy; and his grandchildren.

The Deacon on Call is J.D. Rhodes. J.D. is a 10+ year member of First Baptist Church and a member of the Adult Choir and the Social Committee. He helps teach 7th and 8th grade Sunday School and is an assistant to the Youth Choir.

The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Wednesday, November 23–Friday, November 25.

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 4, at 6pm, followed by a reception. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of holiday decorations for our sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Friday, December 2.

If you can donate 2–3 dozen homemade or store-bought cookies for the Hanging of the Greens reception, use the QR code to the right to sign up. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.



Our annual stewardship emphasis has begun with the theme *For It Is in Giving That We Receive*. Pledge cards were mailed Friday. We encourage you to respond by November 30 by mailing in a pledge card or by pledging online at www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship.

Our NC Mission Offering helps fund non-profit organizations doing work and providing services primarily in North Carolina. Through the generosity of FBC members, we have already received \$4,132 toward our goal of \$10,000.

During November, our mission project is collecting food (pasta, rice, and dried beans) for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Place your contributions in the marked drawer of the Lewis Lobby cabinet.

Diaper changing stations are located in the men's and women's bathrooms on each floor of the Lewis building, and a nursing room is located in our preschool suite on the first floor.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship bags are located in the narthex and in the Gathering Room; preschoolers (birth – kindergarten) are also welcome to join the supervised play in the preschool suite on first floor.

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

November 20–27

Sunday, November 20

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (Fellowship Hall/Blue Room)

Monday, November 21

- 10:00 Clothing ministry closed
- 6:30 High school Bible study (Wade home)
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, November 22

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/S)

Wednesday, November 23–Friday, November 25

Church office closed — Thanksgiving holiday

Sunday, November 27

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth choir and pizza party (choir room/Mellow Mushroom)