

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812

*Gloria  
in excelsis  
& Deo*

January 1, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 1, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the First Sunday after Christmas, part of a twelve-day celebration of the birth of Christ and the good news of incarnation. While the tone of our music and prayers is appropriately upbeat, the reading from Matthew introduces an ominous undertow, reminding us that the path to redemption will not be without resistance. The sermon explores this text which includes what is called "the slaughter of the innocents." There is no way to explain away the tragic loss of life, but we can understand the presence of evil and the place of grief. And we can consider what it means that God is willing not simply to enter this world but to do so as a fragile child who is exposed to danger and hardship from the very beginning. If this is the true meaning of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, what does this say about God and us?

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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

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
Fred Bock

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Based on Psalm 148

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Heavens and heights,

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord, you sky-bound shining lights!**

LEADER: Praise God, you hosts and messengers of the Most High.

PEOPLE: **Praise in the rain, and the snow, and the forest below!**

LEADER: Praise the Lord, you winds and seas,

PEOPLE: **Praise God, all you hand-clapping trees.**

LEADER: Every beast and bird and swimming thing,

PEOPLE: **creeping or crawling, your praises bring.**

LEADER: Every living, breathing thing, praise the Lord.

PEOPLE: **All heaven and nature sing: Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say; Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this;  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save;

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 he has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WORDS: Macaronic carol, 14th C.; para. John M. Neale, 1853, alt.  
 MUSIC: Traditional German melody, 14th C.

IN DULCI JUBILO  
 Irregular

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 63:7-9

Charles Petty

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Hebrews 2:10-18

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy king - ly crown when thou  
 2. Heav - en's arch - es rang when the an - gels sang, pro -  
 3. The fox - es found rest and the birds their nest in the  
 4. Thou cam - est, O Lord, with the liv - ing Word that should  
 5. When the heav - ens shall ring, and the an - gels sing, at thy

cam - est to earth for me; but in Beth - le - hem's home there was  
 claim - ing thy roy - al de - gree; but in low - ly birth thou didst  
 shade of the for - est tree; but thy couch was the sod, O thou  
 set thy peo - ple free; but with mock - ing scorn, and with  
 com - ing to vic - to - ry, let thy voice call me home, say - ing,

found no room for thy ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty:  
 come to earth, and in great hu - mil - i - ty:  
 Son of God, in the des - ert of Gal - i - lee:  
 crown of thorn, they bore thee to Cal - va - ry:  
 "Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee."

*Refrain*

1-4. O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus, there is room in my heart for thee.  
 5. My heart shall re-joice, Lord Je - sus, when thou com-est and call-est for me!

WORDS: Emily E. S. Elliott, 1864  
MUSIC: Timothy R. Matthews, 1876

MARGARET  
Irregular

## 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

Matthew 2:13–23

<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## The Musical Reflection

“Away in a Manger”  
 Dave Brubeck

Maureen Howell

## The Sermon

“Fairy Tales, Real Life, and Where God Is”

Christopher Chapman

## 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.*

**A new father, awe-struck; a mother so mild;  
A stable; a manger; a dear, newborn child —  
God, as we imagine that family so blessed,  
We sometimes forget they were poor and oppressed.**

**A woman — considered to have no real worth —  
Said, yes! She would bear your own Son here on earth.  
We hear her bold singing! Her faithful words soar:  
"God humbles the rich and God lifts up the poor."**

**As Joseph and Mary began a new home,  
They suffered oppression from rulers in Rome.  
Then, fleeing from Herod to save their son's life,  
They looked for a land free from violence and strife.**

**We hear in our own day the cries of the poor;  
We read in our headlines the terror of war.  
In women and children and men who must flee,  
We glimpse, Lord, your life as a young refugee.**

**When some say that only the wealthy have worth,  
O God, we recall where you lived here on earth.  
May we in your church serve the poor and distressed;  
For, working for justice, we give you our best.**

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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Maureen Howell

Alice Jordan

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Charles Petty. A 49-year member of First Baptist, Charles is a teacher of the John Hiott Fellowship class and is a member of the Properties Committee. He and his wife Jamie have two sons and six grandchildren.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

Sympathy to the family of Mary Ann Jobe on her December death and to Mallory Underwood and Blair Jackson on the December 12 death of their brother Marc Taylor.

Please keep the 32 people going on the ski retreat in Pipestem, WV, in your prayers. They leave Friday, January 6, and return Sunday, January 8.

If you have used offering envelopes in the past or have requested them for 2023, you will find them in the first floor corridor leading to the Clothing Ministry. If you would like some but have not requested them, go to the website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest)).

Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 4; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. The programs for January 4 and 11 focus on efforts to address homelessness in our community. This week, Kathy Johnson, executive director of Oak City Cares, will provide information about the realities of homelessness in Raleigh and about the services that Oak City Cares provides. Next week, we will participate in a simulation activity to design a strategy for reducing homelessness. We will also help to prepare backpack supplies for an upcoming outreach to the homeless population in our city.

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). The menu for January 4 is: *Hibachi Night* (chicken with vegetables); non-meat option: hibachi mock chicken; kids: pizza rolls.

Sign up now for Salt Shakers 2023! Email Jessica Helms ([jessica.brickell.helms@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.brickell.helms@gmail.com)) by January 10 to be assigned to dinner groups which will meet on four dates throughout the year. This is a great way to get to know people at the church! See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

In the case of inclement weather, cancellation information about scheduled activities will be noted on a recorded greeting on the office voice mail (919-832-4485) and posted on our home page and on social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram). Information will also be supplied to WRAL-TV (1st Baptist, Salisbury St) and WTVD-TV (First Baptist Church–Salisbury St.).

106 stewardship cards totaling \$793,510 have been received. Your gift matters! Please return your stewardship card to the church, or you may pledge online ([www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship)). Also, if you are not receiving offering envelopes and wish to, wish to change what you receive, or wish not to receive envelopes for 2023, please go to the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest/](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest/)).

The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$3,092 toward our goal of \$20,000.

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.



## Calendar Highlights January 1-8

Sunday, January 1

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)

Monday, January 2

Church office and clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, January 3

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 7:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 4

- 5:15 Meal served (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:45 Children's missions (Preschool and children's suites)  
Handbell rehearsals (302)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 7:30 Choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, January 5

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, January 6-Sunday, January 8

Ski retreat (Pipestem, WV)

Sunday, January 8

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Baptism (sanctuary & YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)

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:

