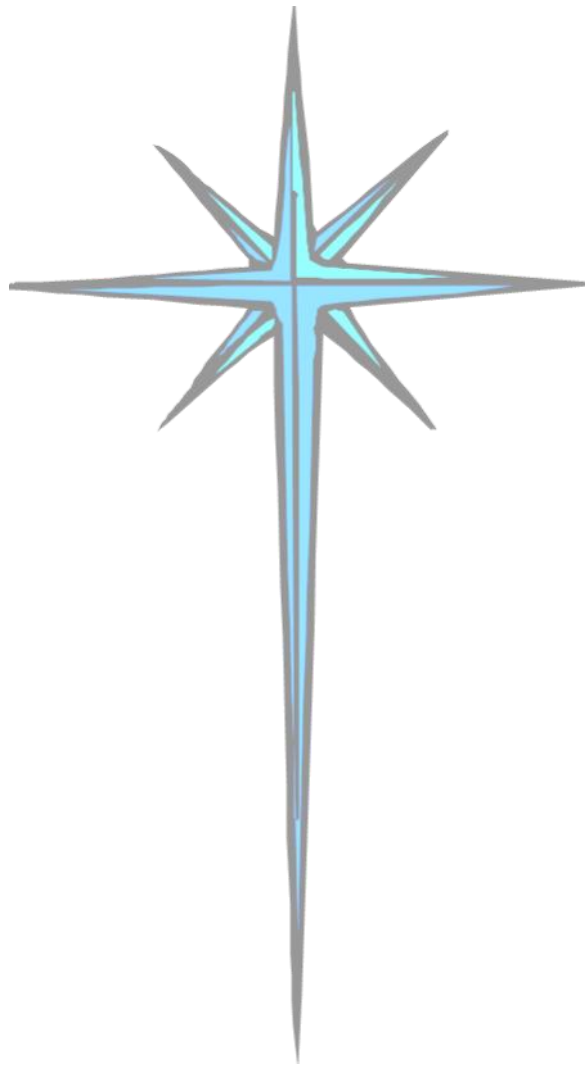


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 15, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 15, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, part of a season in which we celebrate and reflect upon the manifestation of God's love for the whole world. This love permeates all of our texts today as Isaiah speaks of the prophetic calling to be a light to all nations, 1 Corinthians summarizes the saving work of Christ, and John describes Jesus' calling of his first disciples who will help extend God's reign of justice and love. This is also the weekend in which our nation honors the prophetic ministry of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a fellow Baptist who modelled God's all-inclusive love in a way that still challenges us to this day. The service connects these two themes with music, prayer, and liturgy. The sermon explores the second half of the reading from John, focusing on Jesus' interaction with two inquirers. The questions and answers of this brief passage lead to deep reflection, the formation of enduring relationships, and ultimately the transformation of lives. All of this points to the value of creating space for reflection.

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

"This Little Light of Mine"
Calvin Taylor

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

From Psalm 40

LEADER: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust!

PEOPLE: **Who do not turn to the proud or go astray after false gods.**

LEADER: O Lord, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds toward us.

PEOPLE: **None can compare with you, O God.**

LEADER: Do not withhold your mercy from us, O Lord.

PEOPLE: **Let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep us safe forever.**

LEADER: Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us.

PEOPLE: **You are our help and our deliverer.**

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

ODE TO JOY
 8.7.8.7.D.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 49:1-7

Dennis Ellis

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joyce! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." There are triplets in the piano accompaniment on the second and third systems.

Words: Taizé Community, 1986
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1986

The Litany of Writings (responsive)†

- LEADER: In 1963 Dr. King said, "that the ultimate measure of humankind is never where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy."
- PEOPLE: **God give us courage to be counted among those who will work for justice.**
- LEADER: In 1963 Dr. King challenged southern white clergy by saying, "We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people."
- PEOPLE: **God transform our stillness into action and our fear into courage.**
- LEADER: From the teachings of Jesus, Thoreau, and Gandhi, Dr. King taught us that nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon because it "cuts without wounding and ennobles the one who wields it. Nonviolence is a sword that heals."
- PEOPLE: **God heal our world through the works of our hands.**
- LEADER: Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King said that "unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. Right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."
- PEOPLE: **God strengthen us to trust and abide in the power of your goodness.**
- LEADER: To the wealthiest nation in the world, in 1967 Dr. King offered an inclusive solution to the problems of poverty and racism: "a radical restructuring of the architecture of American society."
- PEOPLE: **God rearrange our priorities that all may receive in equal measure.**
- LEADER: And on the day before his death, Dr. King gave voice to the meaning of his vocation: "I just want to do God's will."
- PEOPLE: **God call willing prophets out from this community to do your will on earth.**

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

John 1:29–42

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Christus Paradox”
French Carol/Alfred V. Fedak, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and swordbringer
of the way you took and gave.
You the everlasting instant;
You, whom we both scorn and crave.
Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggar'd by a soldier's toss,
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.
Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our death and life. Alleluia.

Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1991

The Sermon

“Creating Space for the Deeper Questions”

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.

1. In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise, in the
 2. Dark mid-night was my cry, dark mid-night was my cry, dark
 3. Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day, just a -
 4. O, when I come to die, O, when I come to die, O,

Refrain

morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus. Give me Je - sus, give me
 bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 when I come to die, give me Je - sus.

Je - sus, you may have all this world, give me Je - sus.

WORDS: Afro-American Spiritual
 MUSIC: Afro-American Spiritual; arr. Alma Blackmon, 1984
 Music © by Alma Blackmon

GIVE ME JESUS
 7.7.7.4.Ref.

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

"Reflection on PICARDY"

Becky Mercer, flute

David Ferreira, arr.

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

OLD HUNDREDTH

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709

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

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
Paul Johnson

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *This Little Light of Mine*, Music © Calvin Taylor, arr.; *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful*, Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community, Tune: © 1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: © 1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; *Christus Paradox*, Tune: arr. Alfred V. Fedak, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.; *Give Me Jesus*, Arr. Copyright by Alma Blackmon.

The tune and text of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* are in the public domain.

†Used by permission of the author, the Reverend Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., Dr. Chapman’s former colleague in Winston-Salem who now serves as the first Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Deacon on Call is Dennis Ellis. A 31-year member of First Baptist, Dennis is the church moderator and deacon chair, as well as being the president of Baptist Men. He teaches the Grade 6 Sunday School class and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Dennis and his wife Diane have four children: Diana, Kristen, Margie, and Kevin; and eight grandchildren: Alexis, Hailey, Justin, Nathan, Jackson, Emma, Camden, and Charlotte.

Crosby Rohrbaugh is our offering helper today, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

The sanctuary flowers this morning are given by the Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School class in honor of their teachers.

Church conference: Wednesday, January 18; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and 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). The menu for January 18 is: seafood pot pie; non-meat option: vegan pot pie; kids: fish sticks.

The next time Theology on Tap will meet is on Thursday, January 19, at Raleigh Times (14 East Hargett Street), at 6pm. Join in for dinner, drinks, and good conversation!

Mark your calendar now for the ordination of Michael Hood on Sunday, January 22 at 5pm, with a light reception to follow in the fellowship hall at 6pm.

The churchwide missions project for January will piggyback on the children's mission project, which is collecting monetary donations for Heifer International, a non-profit that focuses on giving animals to impoverished families to boost sustainable and dependable food sources. Indicate January Churchwide Missions or Heifer Project in the memo line. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information.

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.).

136 stewardship cards totaling \$1,056,573 have been received. Your gift matters! Please return your stewardship card to the church, or you may pledge online (www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship), or use the QR code to the right.



The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$5,869 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.

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

January 15-22

Sunday, January 15

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Everette Miller class lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth choir dinner (301)

Monday, January 16

- Church office and clothing ministry closed (MLK holiday)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, January 17

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

Wednesday, January 18

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

Thursday, January 19

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 Japanese dance class (Blue Room)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Raleigh Times)

Sunday, January 22

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/deacon ordination (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Worship Committee meeting (parlor)
- 5:00 Ordination of Michael Hood (sanctuary)
- 6:00 Ordination reception (Fellowship Hall)