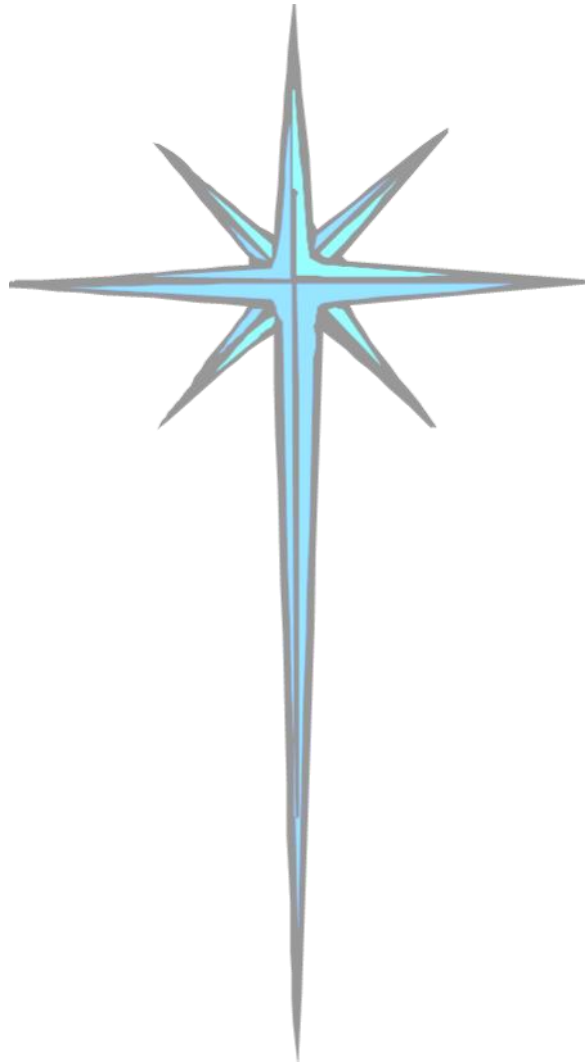


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 29, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, part of a season in which we celebrate God's revelation of light and love to the whole world and reflect upon what this revelation means for us. All of the texts address our response in some way, and there are numerous themes that run through them, but one central theme is the role of humility in genuine faith. It is an alien concept in our culture, one that requires constant attention and frequent reminders. We find help today in the songs we sing, the texts we hear, and the proclamation based on these texts. But as a closed fist must be turned into an open hand to receive a gift, our hearts and minds must be open to the kind of self-learning that leads to humility.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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

"Aria" (Op. 34. No. 2)
Felix Mendelssohn

Beth McCollum, violin

The Call to Worship (responsive)

From Psalm 15

LEADER: Lord, who can be trusted with power, and who may act in your place?

PEOPLE: **Those with a passion for justice, who speak the truth from their hearts;**

LEADER: who have let go of selfish interests and grown beyond their own lives;

PEOPLE: **who see the wretched as their family and the poor as their flesh and blood.**

LEADER: They alone are impartial and worthy of the people's trust.

PEOPLE: **Their compassion lights up the whole earth, and their kindness endures forever.**

The Invocation

1. God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
 2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in
 3. God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - jice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes thro'
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Micah 6:1-8

Randall Burnette

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 70. It features a treble and bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "In still - ness, your Word, in dark - ness, your Light, in dy - ing, your Life, and in liv - ing, your Love." The music concludes with a double bar line.

Words and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 2014

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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 5:1–12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

NETTLETON

**Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.**

**Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.**

**Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2009
Music: American Melody, 1813

The Anthem

“Offertory”

Sanctuary Choir

John Ness Beck

Wyatt Yelverton, solo

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, shall I come before Him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O Man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Words: Micah 6:6-8

The Sermon

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

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. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
 4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart, Lord, I

Refrain
 want to be a Chris-tian in my heart. In my heart, in my
 want to be more lov - ing in my heart. In my heart, in my
 want to be more ho - ly in my heart. In my heart, in my
 want to be like Je - sus in my heart. In my heart, in my

heart, Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Afro-American Spiritual
 I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
 Irregular

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

“Voluntary on ABBOT’S LEIGH”
 Robert J. Powell

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Randall Burnette. A 26-year member, Randall is a member of the Formations Sunday School class. He and his wife Marianna have two grown children, Lindsey and Noah.

The pulpit banner today was commissioned by the Hager family and features Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager's two favorite flowers: magnolia and mountain laurel. The banner has been donated by the Hagers to FBC for use in the Artful Giving Ministry which benefits the Day Mission Fund. A donation has been made today in memory of Joy, whose birthday was on February 4, by the Hager and Crutchfield families.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, February 1; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. We continue the series led by Dr. Bo Prosser, *The Praying Hands Emoji and the Prayers of the Saints*, which includes information and experiences designed to strengthen the spiritual life in the context of modern life in a digital age. Bo is a minister, educator, writer, consultant, coach, and speaker. He has served churches in Raleigh and Charlotte, and recently retired after 20 years in leadership roles with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

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 February 1 is: Mexican casserole; non-meat option: vegan Mexican casserole; kids: taquitos.

Register now for the churchwide retreat in Black Mountain on April 14–16. Pricing and more details can be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*, but email Leah Reed (lreed@fbcraleigh.org) now with the total number of adults and children in your party, along with your sleeping preferences (number per room).

The missions project for January 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.

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.).

154 stewardship cards totaling \$1,168,723 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 \$6,119 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 29–February 5

Sunday, January 29

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Lunch Bunch (231)
- 5:00 Toy Joy wrap-up meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, January 30

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 5:15 Dream Team (Blue Room)
- 6:30 High school Bible study (Wade home)
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, January 31

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)

Wednesday, February 1

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

Thursday, February 2

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

Sunday, February 5

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Communion (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

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:

