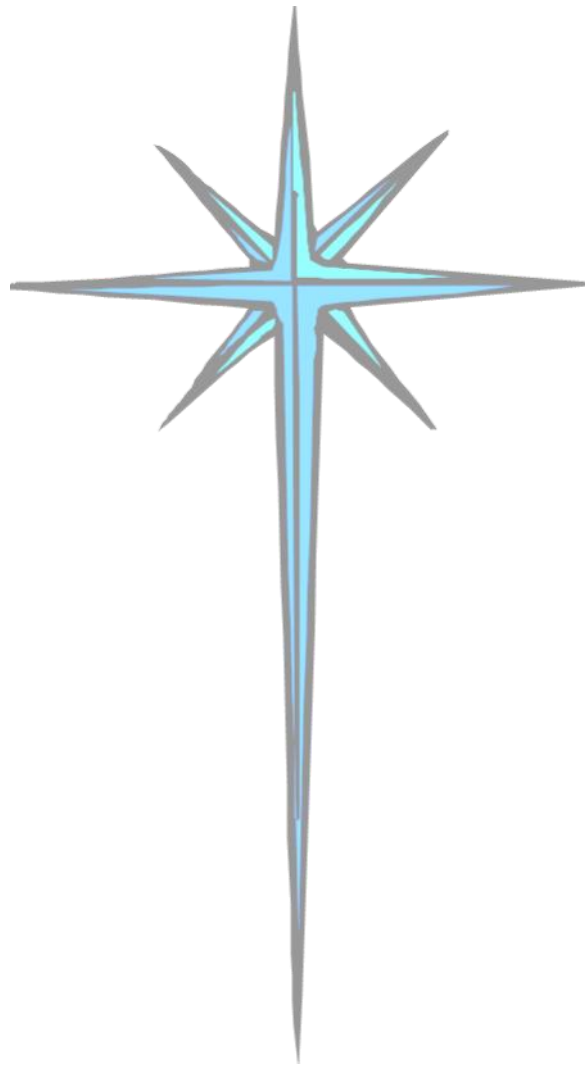


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 19, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 19, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Transfiguration Sunday, the day we remember the story about the experience three disciples have on a mountain with Jesus wherein he is transformed and a voice speaks to them from a cloud. It is the last Sunday before Lent begins, a last glimpse of glory before a season of penitence and reflection, yet also a foretaste of things to come. The music, prayers, and liturgy point to the glorious yet mysterious nature of this day and all personal experiences with the Holy. The sermon examines the fears we might have of high and holy places. We conclude with the sacred ritual of child dedication, realizing that many of our most transforming experiences involve children in some way.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers Leah Reed

The Stewardship Update Matt Strickland

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 "A Trumpeting" Maureen Howell  
Dale Wood

The Anthem "Jubilate Deo" Sanctuary Choir  
László Halmos

Jubilate Deo! (*Praise God!*) Everybody listen. Sing a song of praise all you who love him. Sing a song of praise all you who serve him. Come and listen while I tell you. Join me in my praises. I will tell you what the Lord has done for my soul. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

Words: based upon Psalm 66

The Call to Worship Based on Psalm 99

LEADER: The Holy One is our sovereign.

PEOPLE: **Let us praise God's great and awesome name!**

LEADER: Mighty ruler, lover of justice, you have established fairness among us.

PEOPLE: **Come, let us worship at God's holy mountain, for the Lord is Holy.**

The Invocation

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish - but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867  
 MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. John Roberts, 1839

ST. DENIO  
 11.11.11.11.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 24:12-18

Debbie Willmschen

<sup>12</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." <sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening.  
 Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is falling.  
 Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it!  
 Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.  
 Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory.

Words: Luke 24:29, 4<sup>th</sup> C Greek,  
 tr, Gracia Grindal, 1999

## The Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## \*The Hymn of Devotion

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

HYRFRYDOL

**We have come at Christ's own bidding  
 to this high and holy place,  
 where we wait with hope and longing  
 for some token of God's grace.  
 Here we pray for new assurance  
 that our faith is not in vain,  
 searching like those first disciples  
 for a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;  
 splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
 Moses and Elijah marvel  
 as the heavenly voice is heard.  
 Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
 how the law and prophets meet:  
 Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
 stands transfigured and complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
 fearful lest our faith decline,  
 we like Peter find it tempting  
 to remain and build a shrine.  
 But true worship gives us courage  
 to proclaim what we profess,  
 that our daily lives may prove us  
 people of the God we bless.**

Words: Carl P. Daw, 1988  
 Music: Roland H. Prichard, 1830

## 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.*

## \*The Hymn of Discipleship

## "Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

*(Children are asked to join Susan Stevens in the narthex so they may participate in the dedication of Nora Grace Harker.)*

Unison

1. Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all  
 2. Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word, I ev - er  
 3. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach

else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought, by  
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou on - ly,  
 heav-en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 first in my heart, high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.  
 ev - er be - fall, still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Traditional Irish hymn, c. 8th C.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912  
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1973  
 Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

SLANE  
 10.10.10.10.

The Dedication of Nora Grace Harker, daughter of Anza and Adam Harker

LEADER: The nurture of children in faith is a sacred privilege and awesome responsibility. It begins with the commitment of parents and includes the love of the whole congregation. Today we present Nora Grace Harker to the church and dedicate her to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?

PARENTS: *We, her parents, do.*

LEADER: What can we affirm about Nora?

PEOPLE: **That she is a child of God by creation, made in the image of God.**

LEADER: As Nora grows in her understanding of God and herself, how will we help her to learn about her true status as beloved?

PEOPLE: **We will give her our love and include her in the life of the congregation.**

LEADER: As Nora grows through different stages of life, what will we tell her about her story?

PEOPLE: **We will tell her about Abraham and Sarah, about Mary and Joseph, about Jesus and the people who have sought to follow him in this place.**

LEADER: What will we expect of Nora?

PEOPLE: **We will look to the day when she will sit with us at the Lord's Table, declare faith in Jesus Christ, and confirm the heritage we seek to pass on to her.**

LEADER: Anza and Adam, do you, as parents, embrace your primary responsibility to nurture your child in faith?

PARENTS: *Yes, we do, for we long to pass on our heritage to her.*

LEADER: Do you, the members of First Baptist Church, pledge to work toward creating a nurturing environment for Nora and all the children God entrusts to our care?

PEOPLE: **Yes, we do, for these children belong to us as well.**

LEADER: Then may God be with us and help us.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"  
Emma Lou Diemer

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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Music: Egil Hovland © 1999 Augsburg Fortress; *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*, Words: Carl P. Daw © 1988,  
Hope Publishing Company; *Be Thou My Vision*, Arr. © 1973 by Hope Publishing Company.

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The Deacon on Call is Debbie Willmschen. A member of First Baptist for over 30 years, Debbie is a participant with the *First Foundations* magazine committee and Theology on Tap. She is married to Royce and they have two children, Natalie and Claire.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Charles and Sallie Mae Brickhouse.

Ash Wednesday is next week, February 22; meal served at 5:15pm, service at 6:30pm.

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 February 22 is: vegetable pasta with cream sauce, spinach, and mushrooms; kids: buttered noodles.

If you're interested in playing on the church softball team (co-ed, for adults 18 and up), contact Michael Hood ([mhood@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:mhood@fbcraleigh.org)) TODAY!

If you are interested in being a part of a new Sunday School class for young couples, please come to a "Sunday School Kickoff" on Saturday, March 4, 5-7pm (location TBD) and also to our first class discussion on Sunday, March 5, at 9:45am, in room 224. Childcare will be provided at the Saturday kickoff; contact Lynn Lingafelt ([llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org)) TODAY if you would need to be added to that list. For additional information, please contact Lou Anne and John Liverman ([louanne.live@gmail.com](mailto:louanne.live@gmail.com)).

The CBF Annual Gathering will be held Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24 at Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. This year's even will be in-person as well as live-streamed. For more details and a link to register, see *The Rose Window Weekly*.

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*; email Leah Reed ([lreed@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:lreed@fbcraleigh.org)) with the total number of adults and children in your party, along with your sleeping preferences (number per room).

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.).

158 stewardship cards totaling \$1,179,123 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)), or use the QR code to the right by Tuesday, February 28.



The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$6,834 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**  
**February 19–26**

Sunday, February 19

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Baby dedication (sanctuary & YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Lunch Bunch (230)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, February 20

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 4:00 Dream Team sub-committee meeting (219)
- 6:30 High school Bible study (Wade home)  
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, February 21

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

Wednesday, February 22

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:30 Ash Wednesday service (sanctuary)
- 6:30 Preschool missions (preschool and children's suites)
- 7:30 Choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, February 23

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Hoover/Gay wedding rehearsal (sanctuary)

Friday, February 24

- 5:00 Hoover/Gay wedding (sanctuary)

Saturday, February 25

- 12:00 Set-up for RA car race (fellowship hall)
- 1:00 Memorial service for Lou Lolley (sanctuary)
- 2:00 Reception for memorial service (fellowship hall)

Sunday, February 26

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 RA car race (fellowship hall)
- 3:00 Thirty-Niners outing (Theatre in the Park)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)