

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 19, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection. We consider another lengthy narrative from John, this week the story of Jesus giving sight to a man born with blindness. The liturgy and music explore these themes of blindness and sight in our world and lives while the sermon provides a first-person reflection on the Gospel story. We are invited to ponder our own blindness and sight as well as our calling to follow Jesus in bringing light into a world of much darkness.

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

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"
Maureen Howell, arr.

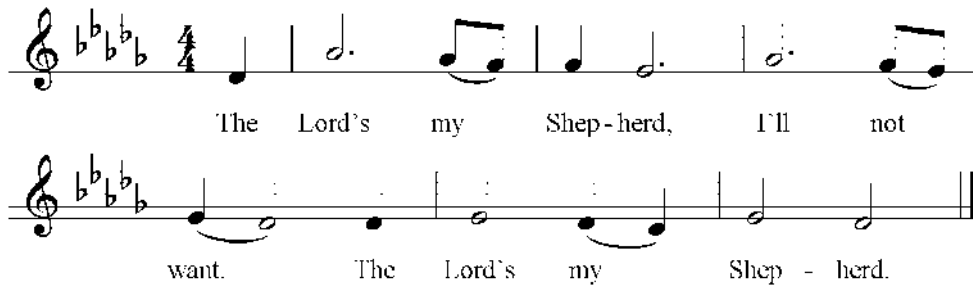
Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 23

Warren Howell

PEOPLE: (Refrain)



The Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not
want. The Lord's my Shep - herd.

Music: Hal Hopson, 2008

LEADER: The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I lack. God guides me in proper paths for the sake of God's good name.

PEOPLE: (Refrain)

LEADER: God bathes my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over! Yes, God's goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life.

PEOPLE: (Refrain)

The Invocation

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might - y, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus -
 thee, sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al -
 fore him! Let the A - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y can do, if with his love he be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain: glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

LEADER: As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord:

PEOPLE: **We are called to participate in what is good and right and true.**

LEADER: We are called to expose what is unfruitful and evil.

PEOPLE: **Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God.**

LEADER: May what is hidden in us become visible, that our hearts would be illumined by grace.

PEOPLE: **Shine your light into our hearts O God. Show us what you would have us be.**

The Silent Confession

The Choral Petition

"O Lord, Most Holy"

César Franck

Youth Choir

Cady Mercer, flute

Claire Carothers, solo

O Lord, most holy, O Lord, most mighty, O God of mercy, hear us, O God of love.
Help us to know you and love you, Savior. Grant us your truth and grace. Savior,
guide and defend us. Rule all our willful hearts. Guard all our wandering thoughts.
Lord of the brokenhearted, bring your peace and joy. Guide in temptation's hour.
Save through your mighty power. Lord, have mercy. Hear our prayer, O God. Show
your favor, Lord. We sing and give praise to you.

Words: Adapted, Hal H. Hopson, 1990

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for -
giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Words and Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Daniel Rohrbaugh

¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

Musical score for 'The Call to Prayer' in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, look full in his won-der-ful face; and the things of earth will grow strange-ly dim in the light of his glo-ry and grace.'

Words and Music: Halen H. Lemmel, 1922

The Morning Prayer

Michael Hood

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 and Hymn of Devotion

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

John 9:1–41

SCOTT

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

**Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

**Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

**Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth ev’rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Trading Guilt and Shame for Wholeness and Dignity”

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. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
 3. The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
 5. When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779, alt.; st. 5, anonymous
 MUSIC: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
 C.M.

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

All Things Work Together for Good”

Youth Choir

John Carter

All things work together for good to those who love the Lord;
 to those who are called according to his purpose.

Words: Romans 8:28

*The Doxology

OLD 100TH

Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

A Lenten Doxology
 Words: G.W. Shepherd, 2006

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

“Recessional”

Maureen Howell

John Carter

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Daniel Rohrbaugh. A seven-year member and first-term deacon, Daniel is a leader of the RAs and a member of the new Sunday School class for young couples. He and his wife, Laura, have two children: Crosby and Vivi.

Our thanks to Sue Crocker for her additional musical leadership this morning.

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

Sympathy to the family of Judith Vick, who died last week and to Marshall Evans on the March 14 death of his wife, Frances.

Please pray for the eight people who are returning today from the third–fifth grade retreat at Mundo Vista and the 16 people going on the high school retreat to Black Mountain Campground Friday, March 24–Sunday, March 26.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 22; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm, in-person and via Zoom (link may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*). This week, Rev. Dr. Lynn Brinkley, associate director of the national Baptist Women in Ministry organization, will lead a program on efforts to support Baptist women in ministry across the United States.

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 March 22 is: pancakes with grits and sausage.

Easter is April 9. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of Easter lilies for our sanctuary, with the remaining funds benefitting the Day Mission Fund. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or by following the link in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Wednesday, March 29.

Our March mission project is to collect the following items to be sent to families in Ukraine: new dark socks (not white) for both sexes and all ages, new AA and AAA batteries, multivitamins for all ages, and any type of over-the-counter painkillers. Please put your donations in the marker drawer in the Lewis Lobby cabinet anytime before the end of the month. If you have questions, contact Cara Lynn Vogel (clvogel@gmail.com).

If you are interested in being a part of a new Sunday School class for young couples, join us in room 224 on Sundays at 9:45am. For additional information, please contact Lou Anne and John Liverman (louanne.live@gmail.com) or Tonya and Lin Carter (tonyacarter5@gmail.com).

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

The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$17,709 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

March 19–26

Sunday, March 19

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

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
Mission celebration planning meeting (229)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, March 23

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

Friday, March 24–Sunday, March 26

High school retreat to Black Mountain Campground

Sunday, March 26

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Baby dedication (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Lunch Bunch (231)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)