

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 26, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we draw closer to the cross on this Fifth Sunday in Lent, we consider another lengthy story from John, this one read by some of the children of our church. It is another story in which Jesus presents a sign, the raising of Lazarus, which foreshadows Jesus' experience of death and resurrection. The sermon will explore the emotional content of the story, the emotions it stirs within us. Other elements of the service, especially the anthem, stir their own emotions, as we seek to honor God with all that we have and are.

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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

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Sandra Eithun, arr.

Evening Bells

The Call to Worship

LEADER: Wait for the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Our souls wait and hope in God's word.**

LEADER: Hope in the Lord.

PEOPLE: **With God there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 130

AZMON

"O for a Thousand Tongues To Sing"

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

LEADER: We have not always been patient when asked to wait.

PEOPLE: **We have not always trusted God to come through.**

LEADER: Longing for a new start, we yearn for restoration.

PEOPLE: **Afraid to reveal our brokenness, pain, and vulnerability, we keep our grief and loss to ourselves.**

LEADER: Let us open our hearts to God, in whom we hope.

PEOPLE: **With God there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.**

The Silent Confession

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Eddie Sasser

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here

and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Out of the Deep” (from *Requiem*)

Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may
abide it?

For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.
I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him; and in his word is my trust.
My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; I say, before the
morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is
plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Words: Psalm 130

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

How Does This Story Make Us Feel?

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, 530 “Be Still My Soul”

FINLANDIA

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

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.

PEOPLE: **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

“Be Still, My Soul”

Maureen Howell

David Cherwien

*The congregation may stand.

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We welcome our guest musician Timothy Holley. Dr. Holley is an alumnus of Baldwin Wallace University and the University of Michigan. He serves as associate professor of Music, North Carolina Central University.

The acolytes today are Camden and Wade Sasser.

The Deacon on Call is Eddie Sasser. A 26-year member of First Baptist, Eddie is a member of the Formations Sunday School class. He serves as chair and Church Council rep for the Properties Committee. Eddie and his wife, Rebecca, have two children, Ella and Nathan.

The banner on the pulpit is given in loving memory of Gertrude and William Lassiter by sons, John and Charles Lassiter with a donation to the Day Mission Fund.

Please keep the 16 people who are returning today from the high school retreat to Black Mountain Campground in your prayers.

Church conference: Wednesday, March 29; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm, in-person and via Zoom (link and documents may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*).

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 29 is: pizza; non-meat option: veggie pizza.

Join us for our annual egg hunt on Saturday, April 1, from 10–11:30am. The egg hunting is geared toward one-year-olds – fifth-graders, and friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren are welcome! Please contact Lynn (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org) by Wednesday, March 22, if you can come hunt or if you would like to provide hospitality.

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 **this Wednesday, March 29**.

The Thirty-Niners welcome all interested FBC members to come hear Raleigh Police Department Chief Estella Patterson at 10:30am on Thursday, March 30, in the fellowship hall. We look forward to meeting her and learning about her plans for Raleigh.

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 Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$22,729, surpassing 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 26–April 2

Sunday, March 26

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

Monday, March 27

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 1:00 Visitation for funeral
- 2:00 Funeral for Judith Vick (sanctuary)
- 6:30 High school Bible study (Wade home)
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

- 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, March 30

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

Saturday, April 1

- 10:00 Easter egg hunt (front lawn, Capitol building)

Sunday, April 2 *Palm Sunday*

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