

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 5, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
FOUNDERS DAY

March 5, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection, as we follow Jesus on the way to the cross. It is also Founders Day at FBC Raleigh, as we celebrate 211 years of the faithful here seeking to follow Christ. In keeping with our heritage as a leader in Baptist life, we are delighted to welcome to the pulpit the Reverend Dr. Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We read texts that point to God's continuing involvement in our lives, we offer a rich diversity of sacred music to God in praise and thanksgiving, and we ponder the new ways God's Spirit may be calling us to live and serve.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Christopher Chapman

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

"Gather Us In"
Maureen Howell, arr.

Maureen Howell, piano

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 121

LEADER: From where will our help come?

PEOPLE: **Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

LEADER: Who is our keeper?

PEOPLE: **The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.**

LEADER: How long will God protect us?

PEOPLE: **God will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day. Gath-er us in and
 lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haughty; gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so
 wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and
 hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in, all
 we shall a-wak-en; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 meek and so low-ly; give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1982

*The Invocation

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Anthem

"Wind on the Hill"

Grade School Choir

Victoria Ebel-Sabo

Rhonda Lowe, director

No one can tell me, nobody knows, where the wind comes from, where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere as fast as it can, I couldn't keep up with it, not if I ran.

Words: A.A. Milne, 1927

The Call to Confession

LEADER: Like Abram and Sarah, God calls us to follow.

PEOPLE: But we often ask where before we will trust.

LEADER: Like Nicodemus questioning Jesus "how," we too ask questions.

PEOPLE: But we often aren't comfortable with the answers we hear.

LEADER: From where will our help come? It comes from the Lord.

PEOPLE: Confident in God's steadfast love, we confess our sins.

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

Genesis 12:1–4a

Hollis Yelverton

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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 Anthem

"Love Divine"
Howard Goodall

Sanctuary Choir

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Unison

1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the Church in faith as - sem - bled, to her
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982
MUSIC: Peter Cutts, 1969

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BRIDEGROOM
8.7.8.7.6.

The Sermon

Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of CBF

“Being Born Anew”

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. God is here! As we his peo - ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4. Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of change and doubt,

may we find in ful - ler meas - ure what it is in Christ we share:
 here are ta - ble, font and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place:
 here, as bread and wine are ta - ken, Christ sus - tains us as of old;
 keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out;

here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence as in speech,
 here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of his Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here in new - ness and re - new - al God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! we be - lieve.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1979
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870
 Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Company

BEECHER
 8.7.8.7.D.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction (responsive)

Church Covenant

In recognition of our church's 211th anniversary.

LEADER: "As we trust we have been brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the influence of His Spirit to give ourselves up to Him,

PEOPLE: **So we do now solemnly covenant with each other, that, God enabling us, we will walk together in brotherly love;**

LEADER: That we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn, rebuke, and admonish one another, as the case shall require;

PEOPLE: **That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together nor omit the great duty of prayer, both for ourselves and for others;**

LEADER: That we will participate in each other's joys, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy, to bear each other's burdens and sorrows;

PEOPLE: **That we will earnestly endeavor to bring up such as may be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;**

LEADER: That we will seek divine aid to enable us to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and every worldly lust;

PEOPLE: **That we will strive together for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us;**

LEADER: That we will endeavor, by example and effort, to win souls to Christ;

PEOPLE: **And, through life, amidst evil report and good report, seek to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light."**

LEADER: "And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory, forever and ever. Amen."

*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

"Trio in E-flat"
Josef Rheinberger

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

Wind on the Hill, Text: from *Now We Are Six*, A.A. Milne © 1927 E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc, © 1955, A.A. Milne. Music: Victoria Ebel-Sabo © 1989 Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.; *We Are Forgiven*, Music: Hal H. Hopson © 1995, as found in *Holy is the Lord*, © 2002, Geneva Press. Used by permission. The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Gather Us In*, Text and Music: Marty Haugen © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; *Love Divine*, Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, Public Domain, Music: Howard Goodall © 2000 Faber Music Ltd.; *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*, Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Peter Cutts © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.; *God Is Here!*, Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

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We welcome Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, as our preacher today.

The Deacon on Call is Hollis Yelverton. A life-long member, Hollis serves on the Music Ministry and Children's Ministry Councils and as an assistant for the pre-K and kindergarten music group. She is a member of the Evening Bells and is a teacher for the Grains of Sand Sunday School Class. Hollis and her husband, Wyatt, have two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth .

The sanctuary flowers are given today in celebration of our church's 211th birthday by Jim and Jennie Keown.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 8; 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*). We will continue exploring the spiritual practice of "visio divina," (sacred seeing) by using images from the art and architecture of First Baptist's historic sanctuary as guides for reflection and prayer.

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 8 is: Pasta (ziti or spaghetti) with Normandy vegetables; non-meat: veggie pasta; kids: macaroni.

Please keep the 17 people returning today from the middle school retreat to Camp Caraway in your prayers.

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 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*.

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) with the total number of adults and children in your party, along with your sleeping preferences (number per room). The deadline to register has been extended to TOMORROW, March 6.

The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$7,059 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

March 5–12

Sunday, March 5

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

Monday, March 6

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

Tuesday, March 7

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 7:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 8

- 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)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, March 9

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

Sunday, March 12

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Communion (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 GA Tea (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)