

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 16, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 16, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, part of a continuing celebration of the resurrection and all that it means for us. In the reading from John 20, we find the disciples locked away in fear the evening after Jesus has been raised. He may be alive, but they are still trying to embrace this reality and ponder its meaning for them. Jesus shows up, calms them, and calls them to ministry, but Thomas is missing from this first encounter. So, it is repeated for him the following week. Much has been made of his “doubting,” but all of the disciples struggle to make sense of the seemingly impossible, and Thomas doesn’t ask for anything anyone else hasn’t experienced already. The story creates space for us to reflect upon what we believe, how we come to embrace it, and what the relationship between faith and doubt is. So, we pray for understanding, even as we sing great hymns of faith, and we ponder the ways we might be helpful to those who find it difficult to believe.

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

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” Sue Crocker, piano
Thomas Gieschen

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 16

LEADER: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

PEOPLE: **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

LEADER: I keep the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

PEOPLE: **Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.**

LEADER: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

PEOPLE: **You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 92 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

*The Gathering Prayer (unison)

Lord, the breath of your spirit reaches us wherever we are. No matter what doors we lock, no matter what walls we build, no matter how tightly we seal ourselves away, your spirit moves like wind through the cracks and finds us in the darkness of our own making. Find us now, calm our fears, bring us peace as we come to you together for worship. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

Brenda Snead

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in

praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



Music: Celtic Alleluia
Finton O'Carroll & Christopher Walker, 1985

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 Hymn of Devotion, 112

ST. AGNES

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Again!”

Sanctuary Choir

Alan Smith

Sue Crocker, pianist/director

Christ the Lord is risen again; Christ hath broken ev'ry chain.
Hark, th'angelic voices cry, singing evermore on high. Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high, pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;
now the universe, it rings that the Lamb is King of kings. Alleluia!

Words: Michael Weisse, 1531
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Belief, Doubt, and the Search for God”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Prayer of Response (responsive)

LEADER: Lord, we want to believe in your peace;

PEOPLE: Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, I will not believe.

LEADER: Lord, we want to receive the breath of your spirit;

PEOPLE: Unless I place my finger where the nails were, I cannot believe.

LEADER: Lord, we want to share your love with others;

PEOPLE: Unless I place my hand in the wound on his side, I am unable to believe.

LEADER: My Lord and My God!

PEOPLE: Lord, guide us so that we see your face in the faces of those around us; let your spirit surround us as we hear you say to us,

LEADER: Peace be with you!

PEOPLE: Lord, we want to believe; help us in our unbelief.

ALL: Breathe on us, breath of God.

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, 295

TRENTHAM

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

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

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Sue Crocker, piano

James Biery

*The congregation may stand.

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Response are by Martha Dixon Kearse for Faithelement Resources for Worship, Faithelement.net. *Celtic Alleluia*, © 1985, 1996, Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved; *Christ the Lord Is Risen Again!*, Words: Public Domain; Music: Alan Smith © 2017 Oxford University Press

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The Deacon on Call is Brenda Snead. A 19-year member of First Baptist and first-term deacon, Brenda serves on the Worship and Funeral Committees and is a member of the Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School class. Brenda is a resident of Raleigh.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Colonel and Mrs. William T. Joyner by their family.

Thanks to Sue Crocker for her leadership in this morning’s service.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, April 19; 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 and next will feature a presentation on the spiritual applications of the Enneagram, an ancient tool for self-awareness and personal growth. The program will be led by Sam and Melody Harrell. The Harrells were CBF field personnel in Kenya and now live in Hillsborough, where Sam is the executive director of Africa Exchange.

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 April 19 is: chicken fried rice with egg drop soup and Asian vegetables; non-meat option: mock chicken fried rice; kids: spring rolls.

Please keep the 93 people who are on the churchwide retreat to Black Mountain this weekend in your prayers.

FBC will be providing volunteers to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project off Poole Road on Saturday, April 22 and May 20. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact John Baldwin (karijohnb@att.net or 919-600-9124).

In April, we are collecting women's personal hygiene items. You may put your donations in the marker drawer in the Lewis Lobby cabinet anytime before the end of the month. If you have questions, please contact Cara Lynn Vogel (clvogel@gmail.com).

The new Sunday School class is looking for a couch and upholstered chairs for their classroom. If you have any furniture you'd like to donate, please contact Tonya Carter at tonyacarter5@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. Questions? Contact Lou Anne and John Liverman (louanne.live@gmail.com) or Tonya and Lin Carter (tonyacarter5@gmail.com).

Vacation Bible School is July 17-21 (9am-12 noon), and we have two last teaching positions to fill. If you are interested in leading a recreation rotation for 1st - 5th graders, contact Lynn (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org). A curriculum is provided, and Lynn will round up the supplies you need. Thank you for considering serving in this way!

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

April 16–23

Sunday, April 16

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

Monday, April 17

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

Tuesday, April 18

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

Wednesday, April 19

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/37/311)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, April 20

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

Saturday, April 22

Habitat Build Day

Sunday, April 23

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