

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 30, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, a season in which we celebrate the good news of resurrection. The texts for this day include another reading from Acts 2 which describes life in the Easter community, and two texts which use shepherd imagery for God and Jesus. The first of these shepherd texts, a Scottish setting of Psalm 23, will be sung by the sanctuary choir, while the second, the reading from John, is the primary focus of the sermon. John's language is simple and direct, but John's message is often complicated. Such is the case in this text. Jesus' first disciples don't understand what he is saying. The text invites deeper reflection, as does the central message of this season, and this reflection leads to awe and wonder, and ultimately prayers of gratitude and songs of praise.

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

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"
Jeanne Cotter

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

LEADER: The Shepherd calls us by name and leads us to abundant life.

PEOPLE: **We hear your voice and hasten to follow.**

LEADER: The Shepherd leads us in right paths, supplies and comforts us.

PEOPLE: **We hear your invitation to take our place at the feast.**

LEADER: The Shepherd gathers us in and welcomes us to the house of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **We hear your call and give you praise.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 108 “Come, Christians, Join To Sing”

MADRID

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

“A Psalm Folksong”
Edwin Penhorwood

Sanctuary Choir

The Lord’s my shepherd; I’ll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e’en for his own name’s sake;

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still;

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God’s house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Words: Psalm 23, *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 Gospel

John 10:1-10

¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“My God Is So High”

Sanctuary Choir

Moses Hogan, arr.

Dean Blakeley, solo

My God is so high you can't get over him,
he's so low, you can't get under him,
he's so wide you, you can't get 'round him.
You must come in by and through the lamb.

One day as I was walkin'
along the heavenly road,
my Savior spoke unto me and
he filled my heart with his love.

I'll take my gospel trumpet
and I'll begin to blow,
and if my Savior helps me,
I'll blow wherever I'll go.

Words and Music: Negro Spiritual

*The Hymn of Devotion, 635

HE LEADETH ME

“He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“A Good Book To Read, Just Not the First”

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.

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”



1. You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 Stripped of might up - on the cross,
 Sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 Shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry.



Of the way you took and gave.
 Beg - gar'd by a sol - dier's toss,
 Have a love that reach - es wide.
 Wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



You, whom we both scorn and crave.
 You, who are our gift and cost.
 You, who are our pil - grim guide.
 You, who are our death and life.

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

“Moderato in B-flat”

Maureen Howell

Robert J. Powell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Matt Strickland. An 11-year member, Matt is a teacher for the High School (Grades 9–12) Sunday School class and a member of the Properties Committee. He and his wife Allison have two children, Alice and Hayes.

The sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Jimmy and Louise Rollins and Matt and Ann Lojko, Tom and Ann Rollins' parents.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, May 3; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:30pm, in-person and via Zoom (link may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*). Please join us for our annual Children's Music Celebration in the fellowship hall this week!

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 May 3 is: breakfast for dinner.

Dr. Chapman will be out-of-town from Thursday, May 4, through Tuesday, May 9. The Rev. Leah Reed will be preaching in his absence on May 7.

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).

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

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 30–May 7

Sunday, April 30

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship FBC and JBC combined (sanctuary & YouTube)
- 12:00 Lunch Bunch (231)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, May 1

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

Tuesday, May 2

- 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)
- One Wake Listening Session (fellowship hall)

Wednesday, May 3

- 11:30 Preschool Mother's Day Tea (fellowship hall)
- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/37/311)
- 6:30 Children's Music Celebration (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, May 4

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

Sunday, May 7

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Communion/Leah Reed preach (sanctuary & YouTube)
- JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Lunch Bunch (231)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)