

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 14, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Our worship on this Sixth Sunday of Easter is shaped by a simple statement of Jesus recorded in John 14, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." We express our love for Christ in songs of praise, in prayers of thanksgiving, and with financial offerings. But the depth of our love is revealed in our willingness to follow Jesus' teachings, some of which are not easy to follow. Yet if they are his teachings, the reading from 1 Peter assures us that any hardship we experience will lead to an experience of blessing; at the very least, the blessing of knowing we are not alone because the Spirit of truth is with us. With this in mind, we not only lift up songs of praise, we offer our lives to others in service and love. We show up for worship here and for faithful discipleship each day.

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

Maureen Howell

"Hymn to Joy"
John Carter

The Introit

“Come, Let Us Sing”

Grade-School Choir

Jodi Lindh

Come, let us sing to the Lord,
Make a joyful noise to the God of our salvation.
Make a joyful noise with songs of praise!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, everyone!
Sing to the Lord, bless God’s name, tell what God has done.
Sing to the Lord, lift up your voice! Praises all around.
Sing to the Lord with all your heart! Make a joyful sound!

from Psalms 95, 96

*The Hymn of Praise, 20

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

ODE TO JOY

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 70. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "In still - ness, your Word, in dark - ness, your Light, in dy - ing, your Life, and in liv - ing, your Love." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Words and Music: Charles Damon, 2014

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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.**

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven 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 every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every 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, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830

The Gospel

John 14:15–21

¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem "If Ye Love Me" Sanctuary Choir
Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; E'en the Spirit of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

John 14:15-18, KJV

The Sermon "If You Love Me . . ." Christopher Chapman

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, 91 "I Love You, My Jesus" LOVE TO CHRIST

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory "I Love Thee, My Lord" Maureen Howell
George Shearing

*The Doxology LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623*
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt.

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

“Joyful Finale”
Colin Mawby

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is JD Rhodes. JD is a 10+ year member of First Baptist Church. He helps teach 7th and 8th grade Sunday School and is a Youth Choir Assistant.

Our acolytes today are Crosby and Laura Rohrbaugh. Elizabeth Yelverton is our offering helper, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

The sanctuary flowers are placed by Nancy and Bobby Phillips in honor of the love of all mothers and especially in memory of Lillie Mae Phillips and Zua Moore.

Sympathy to Dean Blakeley on the May 7 death of his mother, Kay Blakeley.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, May 17; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. This week is our Mission Celebration and our Mission Friends, RAs, and GAs are eager to share some of what they have learned this year!

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 17 is: Mediterranean night: lamb and rice with lentils, tzatziki sauce, and chick peas; non-meat option: veggies; kids: fish sticks.

The Theology on Tap gathering for May will be held Thursday, May 18, at 6pm at Clouds Brewing (126 N West St). Please join us!

Class of 2023, congratulations! If you are graduating from college, email Deborah (dmast@fbcraleigh.org) by May 26 with the following information for our church's publications: graduate's name, college, degree, and your relationship to the graduate, and any family connections within our church.

Our May mission project is collecting items for the preschool program in El Chorizo, Honduras, such as chubby crayons and pencils, construction paper, glue sticks, coloring pencils, and safety scissors. Place your donations in the drawer marked for Honduras donations in the Lewis lobby. Questions? Contact Cara Lynn Vogel (clvogel@gmail.com).

Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, July 17–Friday, July 21, from 9am–noon and it's for rising three-year-olds through rising 6th graders. Friends and neighbors are welcome too! Register by Wednesday, June 7, by going to <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2n6vwp5kpfawv/2023%20Registration%20Form2-fillable.pdf?dl=0>.

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

May 14–21

Sunday, May 14

- 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, May 15

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 High school Bible study (Wade home)
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, May 16

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

Wednesday, May 17

- 1:00 Mabel Claire Maddrey Circle #7 (parlor)
- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Mission Celebration (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/S)

Thursday, May 18

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Clouds Brewing)

Saturday, May 20

Habitat Build Day

Sunday, May 21

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 2:00 Music Made in Heaven concert (fellowship hall)
- 3:00 Concert reception (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)