

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 7, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, a season where we continue to reflect and celebrate on the new life we experience through the resurrection. The scripture passages from today's lectionary readings offer guidance and comfort for times such as this. Now, more than ever, we need to get rid of habits, speech, and behavior that destroy community and stir up enmity. Instead, we are called to practice deep, sincere, mutual love. The sermon focuses on the Epistle lesson found in 1 Peter, where the apostle is giving instruction to a new community of faith. He uses the Old Testament imagery of stones to teach a lesson about the people of God that Christ uses to build up the Church. We are challenged by this passage to be visible signs of hope to the world around us by offering grace, living in the light of God's all-inclusive love. As a practice in that overflowing sign of grace, we will share communion together.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

Amanda LaBrecque, oboe

"Moderato" (from Sonata in G)
Antonio Lotti

The Call to Worship

LEADER: In the breaking of bread and in prayers,

PEOPLE: **Jesus is among us.**

LEADER: In the telling of stories and in signs,

PEOPLE: **Jesus is among us.**

LEADER: In this place and in this moment,

PEOPLE: **Jesus is among us.**

LEADER: Let us worship God with joy!

*The Hymn of Praise, 45 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16

Linda Roberts

¹In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. ²Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. ³You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name’s sake lead me and guide me, ⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. ⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. ¹⁵My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”
⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



The Morning Prayer

Leah Reed

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

“More Love”

Sanctuary Choir

Shaker Hymn/Sid Davis, arr. Amanda LaBrecque, oboe

More love, more love. The heavens are blessing,
the angels are calling, O Zion, more love.
If ye love not each other in daily communion,
how can ye love God whom ye have not seen?

Canterbury, NH, c. 1870

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Hymn of Devotion, 701

“God Is Here!”

BEECHER

The Homily

“Look for the Cairn”

Leah Reed

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the'. The second staff contains 'ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's'. The third staff contains 'not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the
ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

Words and Music: Barbara Hamm, 2008

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

Lynn Lingafelt

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, 700 "We Are God's People"

SYMPHONY

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

“Fanfare”
William Mathias

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Linda Roberts. A 24-year member and first-term deacon, Linda is a member and president of the Everette Miller Friendship Sunday School class and is married to Dan Roberts.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Bill Simpson by Edith and Steve.

Dr. Chapman will be out-of-town through Tuesday, May 9. The Rev. Leah Reed is preaching in his absence today.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, May 10; 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*). This week, Dianne Ellis will be speaking about a micro-business/mission enterprise that she is supervising for women in Honduras. Before and after the presentation, Dianne will be selling the hand-made napkins that the women in Honduras have made.

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 10 is: sweet and sour meatballs with rice and broccoli; non-meat option: veggie meatballs; kids: buttered noodles.

Class of 2023, congratulations! If you are graduating from college, email Deborah (dmast@fbcraleigh.org) 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).

On Saturday, May 13, the McDowell Street parking lot will be closed for maintenance.

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 7-14

Sunday, May 7

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

Monday, May 8

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

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 All missions night (124/131/229/233)
- 6:15 Adult programming (302/Zoom)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, May 11

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

Saturday, May 13

McDowell Street parking lot closed for maintenance

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)