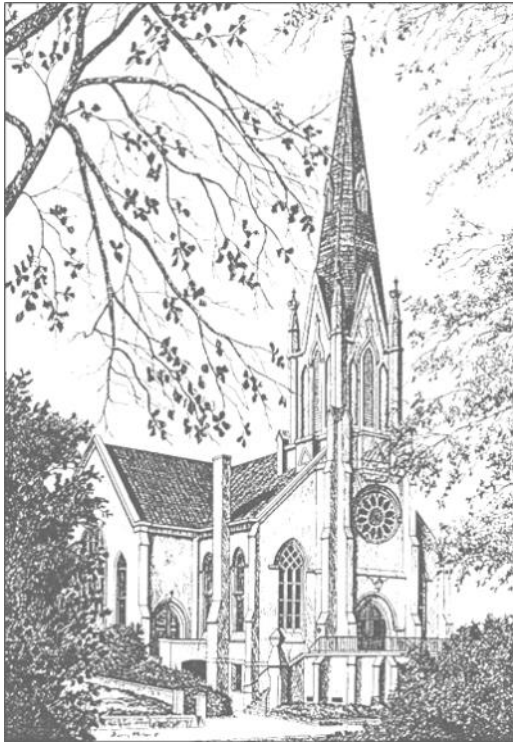


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 18, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 18, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday after Pentecost, a part for what is called ordinary time in the Christian year. We continue with readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew, following themes related to the pioneers of Jewish tradition, the theology of the Apostle Paul, and the ministry of Jesus. The sermon grows out of the familiar reading from Genesis in which Sarah laughs at the news that she will have a child at ninety, but it considers the larger narrative of struggle with infertility. While this may seem an odd focus on Father's Day, it addresses a very real challenge of many couples that the church has often been afraid to talk about openly. Today we break that silence as we offer bold praise to the God who is with us when things are going well and when they are not, and we offer prayers for those who are struggling most.

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

"Prelude in E minor"
Gerald Bales

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

Psalm 100

LEADER: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

PEOPLE: **Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

LEADER: Know that the Lord is God.

PEOPLE: **It is God who made us, to whom we belong; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

LEADER: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

PEOPLE: **Give thanks and bless God's name.**

LEADER: For the Lord is good;

PEOPLE: **God's steadfast love endures forever, God's faithfulness to all generations.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 53

"Let All Things Now Living"

ASH GROVE

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 18:1-15

Bobby Phillips

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'" ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“I Sing th’ Almighty Power of God”

Sanctuary Choir

Austin Lovelace, arr.

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that I can be, Thou, God, are present there.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715

Musical: English Folk

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

Matthew 9:35—10:8

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

¹Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be
 Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er be
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be



the same? Will you let my love be shown,
 the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare
 the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean,
 the same? Will you use the faith you've found
 the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go



will you let my name be known, will you let my
 should your life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 and do such as this un - seen, and ad - mit to
 to re - shape the world a - round, through my sight and
 where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown in you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 what I mean in you and you in me?
 touch and sound in you and you in me?
 live and grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949 and Graham Maule, b. 1958; © 1988, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 Tune: KELVINGROVE; Scottish melody

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, 642

WALK WITH ME

“I Want Jesus To Walk with Me”

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

“Gigue on THE ASH GROVE”

Maureen Howell

Christine Schulz

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Bobby Phillips. A 31-year member and first-term deacon, Bobby is a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School class and the Thirty-Niners senior group and is a greeter and volunteers in the clothing ministry. He is married to Nancy Moore Phillips and has two sons and five grandchildren.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. William M. Lewis by his wife Marie and children Karl, Keith, Karen, Kay, Kirsten, and their families.

Sympathy to the family of Gerhardt Zimmermann, who died June 10.

Please keep the group going on the youth mission trip to Alabama in your prayers. They leave today and return on Saturday, June 24.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

On Wednesday, June 21, from 6-7:30pm, we will be hosting a showing of Patrick Nichols' film *Palm Sunday*, followed by a time of discussion in the fellowship hall. We'll start the evening off with a pizza dinner; RSVP by contacting Deborah Mastrodonato in the church office (919-832-485 or dmast@fbcraleigh.org).

Please note: from June 19 until July 19, the state parking lot will not be open due to construction on the lot, and the door to the Lewis Building will not be unlocked until the work is finished. Additionally, July 3 is the last day for approximately a month that the entrance to the church off of Salisbury Street will be open, as we will begin repairs on the stairs the week afterwards.

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

June 18-25

Sunday, June 18 – Saturday, June 24

Youth mission trip to Alabama

Sunday, June 18

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)

Monday, June 19

10:00 Clothing ministry open

Tuesday, June 20

10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)

Wednesday, June 21

6:00 Dinner and showing of short film “Palm Sunday” (fellowship hall)

Thursday, June 22

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, June 25

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)