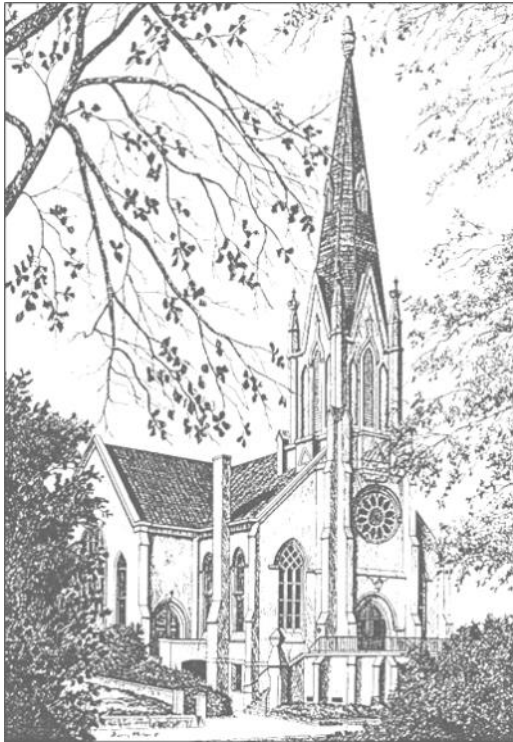


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 25, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 25, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. Numerous themes run through the readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew, including the theme of God's providential care. This theme finds expression in our prayers, music, and liturgy. God is the one we can call on in any time of need. The sermon explores various manifestations of God's care, as revealed in the complex narrative of Genesis 21. In this text, God's concern extends beyond individual need to the needs of the outcast and the marginalized, as well as those outside our household of faith. As the hymn of discipleship proclaims, "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea... for the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind..." Thanks be to God!

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

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"
Mark Hayes

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 86

LEADER: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

PEOPLE: Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.

LEADER: You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

PEOPLE: Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 66

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 21:8–21

Anthony Petty

⁸The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”

Sanctuary Choir

Gary Matheny, arr.

Whatever God ordains is right; his will is ever holy.
I will obey his every word, and follow where he leads me.
He is my God, though dark my road, he leads me on the path of light.
To follow him is my delight.

Whatever God ordains is right; he never will deceive me;
He leads me by the proper path; I know he will not leave me.
I take, content, what he has sent, his hand can turn my griefs away.
And patiently I wait his day.

Whatever God ordains is right; here shall my stand be taken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet I am not forsaken;
My Father’s care is round me there; through evil that I cannot see,
I trust his hand to lead me.

Words: Samuel Rodigast, 1675

Music: Severus Gastorius, 1675

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.**

²⁴A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1 Why should I feel dis - cour - aged? Why should the shad - ows come?
2 "Let not your heart be trou - bled," his ten - der word I hear,
3 When - ev - er I am tempt - ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise,



Why should my heart be lone - ly and long for heaven and home,
and rest - ing on his good - ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
when song gives place to sigh - ing, when hope with - in me dies,



when Je - sus is my por - tion? My con - stant friend is he:
though by the path he lead - eth but one step I may see:
I draw the clos - er to him; from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me;



his eye is on the spar - row, and I know he watch - es me.

Refrain

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)

for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Words: Civilla Durfee Martin, 1905
Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Multiple Messages Worth Hearing”

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, 486

WELLESLEY

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”
J. S. Bach (from *Cantata* 75)

Maureen Howell

The Deacon on Call is Anthony Petty. A 45-year member, Anthony is a member of the Scriptural Serendipity class, the Personnel Committee, and the Dream Team. He and his wife Carolyn have two grown children, Allie and Tom.

The sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Dick and in honor of Sonia Moore by their children in celebration of their 62nd wedding anniversary.

Our offering helper is Brooks Joyce, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

Sympathy to the family of Nancy Edwards, who died Thursday, June 22.

Dr. Chapman will be on vacation from Tuesday, June 27 through Saturday, July 8. Michael Hood will be preaching in his absence on Sunday, July 1.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of June 22, we have received \$350.00 towards our goal of \$10,000. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Please note: 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. That door can only be used as an emergency exit, not an entrance (in an emergency, exit and go to your right).

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 25~July 2

Sunday, June 25

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)

Monday, June 26

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open

Tuesday, June 27

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

Thursday, June 29

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, July 2

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Michael Hood preaching (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)

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