

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 4, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

TRINITY SUNDAY

June 4, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: This morning is Graduation Sunday, as well as Trinity Sunday. The liturgical calendar's celebration of the Trinity is a fitting setting for the day in which we honor our graduates. Having their perspectives lead us through worship allows us to glimpse the beauty of God in diverse ways, just as the Triune God we worship makes themselves known to us in a myriad of ways. Our graduates have participated in crafting the elements of today's service, which offer reflections of what it means to persevere through trial, and to have trust in God. Today they offer a challenge for us to see God's presence in our lives and call us to reinvigorate the energy we put into our own journeys. Our graduates are remarkable, and we are excited to have their voices uplifted in our sanctuary this morning.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

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 Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

*The Hymn of Praise, 2

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

NICAEA

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 40:21–31

Emma Tyndall

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Refrain



And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the



breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and



hold you in the palm of his hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
 who abide in his shadow for life,
 say to the Lord: "My refuge,
 my rock in whom I trust!"

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
 and famine will bring you no fear:
 under his wings your refuge,
 his faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
 nor the arrow that flies by day;
 though thousands fall about you,
 near you it shall not come.

For to his angels he's given a command
 to guard you in all of your ways;
 upon their hands they will bear you up,
 lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Words and Music: Michael Joncas, 1979

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

"I Will Sing with the Spirit"

Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

I will sing with the spirit: Alleluia.

And I will sing with the understanding, also.

Words: based upon 1 Corinthians 14:15

The Christian Testament

2 Timothy 4:1-8

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Hymn of Devotion

“Guide My Feet”



1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
 2. I'm your child while I run this race.
 3. Hold my hand while I run this race.
 4. Stand by me while I run this race.



Guide my feet while I run this race.
 I'm your child while I run this race.
 Hold my hand while I run this race.
 Stand by me while I run this race.



Guide my feet while I run this race,
 I'm your child while I run this race,
 Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
 Stand by me while I run this race,



don't want to run this race in vain!

Tune and Text: African-American spiritual

RESPONDING IN FAITH

“Be Thou My Vision”

Lee Burswold, arr.

The Charge to the Graduates

Michael Hood

LEADER: Jacob departed from his parents and set out on a journey of self-discovery. Night fell, and Jacob—alone and cold—slept beneath the stars, using only a rock for a pillow. In the stillness of night, he dreamt of the angels, and received a blessing from God.

GRADUATES: *Dear God, we are grateful that you bless us. We pray that we will take time to be still and that by doing so we might find comfort, especially when we are alone.*

LEADER: Samuel lay in bed and heard a voice calling his name. He ran to the priest Eli, thinking that Eli wanted him. Eventually, Eli helped Samuel to realize that the voice was the voice of God. Samuel responded to God’s voice and delivered God’s message.

GRADUATES: *Dear God, we are grateful that you call out to us, especially when you call out repeatedly. Help us to listen for your voice, to trust that we hear you when we are alone. Help us to seek out others who can help us listen for your voice.*

LEADER: Mary learned from an angel that she would give birth to the Son of God. The events surrounding that birth were terrifying and confusing. While she had every right to be afraid, we are told that she “pondered these things in her heart,” solitarily meditating upon her love for God and God’s love for her.

GRADUATES: *Dear God, we are grateful that you offer us calm. When we are anxious or afraid, help us to ponder you, to contemplate our lives, to think upon our world. Help us to recognize and appreciate your ability to steady us when we are shaken.*

LEADER: Jesus spoke to a crowd of over 5000, fed them with loaves and fishes, and then dismissed the mob. He even sent his disciples away in a boat. The crowd dispersed, and Jesus went alone to a mountaintop to pray. Exhausted by the work that he had done and the daunting future that lay ahead, Jesus took time to be alone, to sit in nature, to pray, and to recharge.

GRADUATES: *Dear God, we are grateful that you help us to recharge. May we turn to you when we are weary. May we remember that there is power in solitude. May we seek renewal in your love.*

LEADER: Church, what have you to say to these graduates?

PEOPLE: **We promise to continue to teach, to nurture, to comfort, to challenge and to love these high school graduates. They are members of our family, and we will hold them in our hearts. May they find God wherever they are going, and may they love God with all their hearts. Amen.**

The Presentation of Gifts

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, 519

VILLE DU HAVRE

“It Is Well with My Soul”

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

“Jubilee on FOUNDATION”

Maureen Howell

Alice Jordan

*The congregation may stand.

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THE GRADUATES



*William Ryland Wade
Broughton High School*



*Emily Mae Taylor
Green Hope High School*



The Deacon on Call is Karen Poteat. A 27-year member of First Baptist, Karen is the director of the Youth Division of Sunday School and a member of the Formations class. She and her husband Will have three sons — Zachary, Jacob, and Isaac — and one daughter, Olivia.

The sanctuary flowers are given for today's worship service in honor of our 2023 high school graduates.

Sympathy to Dean Blakeley on the May 28 death of his spouse, Danny Thomerson.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, the ministers will be away on a staff retreat in Arapahoe. Should you need to contact any of them, please call the church office.

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

June 4–11

Sunday, June 4 *Graduation Sunday*

8:00 Graduates' breakfast (fellowship hall)

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)

JBC worship (226)

Monday, June 5, and Tuesday, June 6

Ministerial staff retreat in Arapahoe

Monday, June 5

10:00 Clothing ministry open for USCRI groups only

Tuesday, June 6

10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)

1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)

7:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 7

2:00 Everette Miller Sunday School class officers' meeting
(conference room)

7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, June 8

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, June 11

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship/Communion (sanctuary & YouTube)

JBC worship (226)