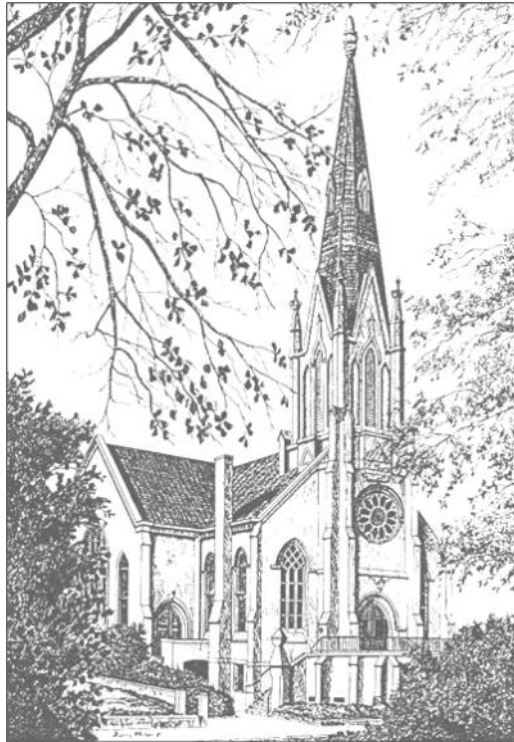


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 16, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today, as always, our worship is shaped by ancient texts that feel archaic at times but still contain relevant truth for our lives. The reading from Genesis fits this pattern. It is a story about a family from long ago that struggles with sibling rivalry, parental favoritism, and deceptive behavior. Why should we care about them? Partly because they are so much like us, and partly because God is working through them, as God is working through us. We sing praise to this God, we pray for our families in all the sizes and shapes they come, and we look for the ways God is at work in the complicated and often messy details of our lives.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

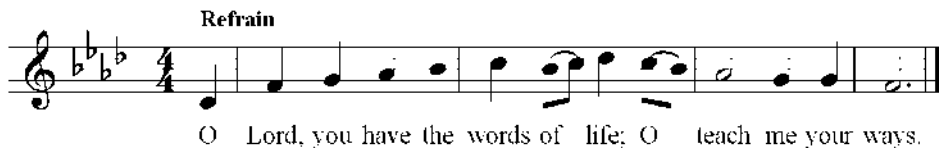
The Trinity Chimes

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

“Improvisation”
Raymond Haan

Maureen Howell



Hal H. Hopson, adapt.

READER 1: Lord, your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

READER 2: I shall uphold your rulings, for I have sworn an oath to observe them.

READER 1: Lord, my suffering is deep. Keep me alive as you have promised.

READER 2: Accept my prayer of thanks, O Lord, and teach me your wisdom.

All: (refrain)

READER 1: Lord, my life is continually threatened, but I trust the truth of your law.

READER 2: Wicked ones lay a trap for me, but I remain true to your precepts.

READER 1: Your commandments are my eternal heritage; they are the joy of my heart.

READER 2: I devote my life to obeying your statutes until the day I die.

All: (refrain)

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 52

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 25:19–34

Valerie Cumbea

¹⁹These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." ²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³²Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



O Lord, you have the words of life; O teach me your ways.

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

"Summer Suns Are Glowing"

Sanctuary Choir

Paul Halley

Summer suns are glowing over land and sea,
Happy light is flowing bountiful and free.
Ev'rything rejoices in the mellow rays,
All earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

God's free mercy streameth over all the world,
And his banner gleameth, ev'rywhere unfurled.
Broad and deep and glorious as the heav'n above,
Shines in might victorious his eternal love.

Lord, upon our blindness thy pure radiance pour;
For thy loving kindness make us love thee more.
And when clouds are drifting dark across our sky,
Then, the veil uplifting, Father, be thou nigh.

We will never doubt thee, though thou veil thy light.
Life is dark without thee; death with thee is bright.
Light of Light! Shine o'er us on our pilgrim way,
Go thou still before us to the endless day.

Words: W. Walsham How, 1823-1897

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 379

AR HYD Y NOS

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

The Sermon

"The Blessing and Curse of Families" 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.

1. God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,
 2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
 3. We learn through our fam - ilies how close - ness and trust
 4. Give, Lord, to each fam - ily in con - flict and storm
 5. Then wid - en that wis - dom and grace to in - clude

the cir - cles of nur - ture that raised us from birth,
 for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,
 in - crease when our ac - tions are lov - ing and just.
 a sense of your wis - dom and grace that trans - form
 the rac - es and view - points our fam - ilies ex - clude

com - pan - ions who join us to walk through each stage
 the in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend
 Yet fam - ilies have al - so dis - tort - ed their roles,
 sharp an - ger to in - sight which strength - ens the heart
 till peace in each home bears and nur - tures the bud

of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
 of par - ent and part - ner and room - mate and friend.
 mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruising their souls.
 and makes clear the place where re - build - ing can start.
 of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1991

Tune: Welsh folk, arr. Caniadau y Cysseger, 1839

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

Maureen Howell

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Johann Pachelbel

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

And praise the Spirit evermore —

The Triune God, whom we adore.

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551

Words: Thomas Ken, 1695 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

“Postlude on OLD HUNDREDTH”

Maureen Howell

Fred Bock

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Valerie Cumbea. Valerie is an eleven-year member of First Baptist and a first-term deacon. She is a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class and the Community Ministries committee. Valerie lives in Apex.

The sanctuary flowers for today's worship are given by Alvah Ward, Jr. in memory of Rachel T. Ward in honor of her July birthday.

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

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the June 26 birth of William Thomas "Tommy" Rollins, son of Lacy and Matthew Rollins and grandson of Ann and Tom Rollins.

You're invited to join the Thirty-Niners for lunch on Thursday, July 20, at Mrs. Lacy's Magnolia House, 405 Carthage Street, in Sanford. If you are riding the church bus, meet at church at 10:30am. We will leave for the restaurant at 10:45am. If you are driving on your own, reservations are at 12pm.

The next Theology on Tap gathering is on Thursday, July 20, at 6pm at Tobacco Road Brewery at 505 Jones Street. We hope to see you there.

Please join us Thursday, July 20, at 6:30pm when FBC will host the NC Baptist All-State Youth Choir in concert in the sanctuary. More details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Mark your calendars for Our End-of-Summer Dessert & Entertainment fellowship on Sunday, August 13 at 7pm, featuring ragtime-jazz-swing pianist-entertainer, Ethan Uslan.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of July 13, we have received \$2,303 towards our goal of \$10,000. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Beginning tomorrow, July 17, the front steps of our sanctuary will be under construction. If you need to enter through the sanctuary doors, please use the side entrance closest to Edenton Street. As always, the back parking lot doors and the Edenton Street doors will be open for Sunday School, but locked at 11:05am. If you are coming in for worship after then, please use that same side entrance of the sanctuary.

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

July 16–23

Sunday, July 16

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

Monday, July 17–Friday, July 21

- 9:00 Vacation Bible School (building-wide)

Monday, July 17

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, July 18

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

Thursday, July 20

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners' outing to Mrs. Lacy's in Sanford
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Tobacco Road Brewery, 505 Jones Street)
- 6:30 NC Baptist All-State Youth Choir (sanctuary)

Saturday, July 22

- 8:00 Senior Night

Sunday, July 23

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