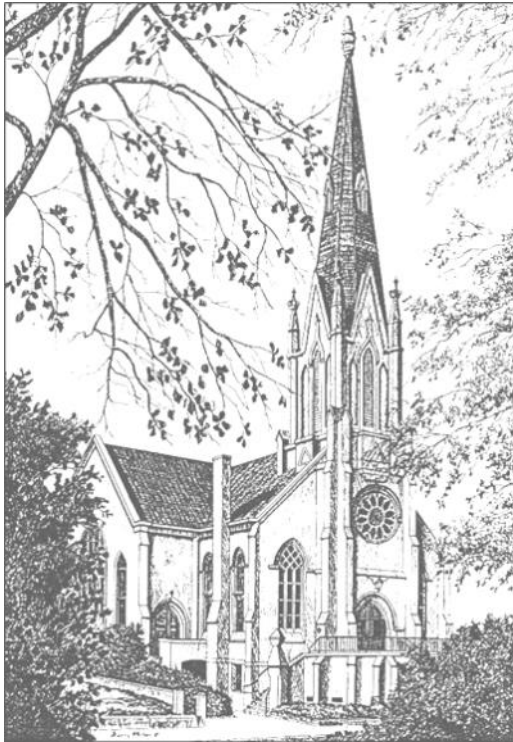


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 23, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, we continue with readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew. While the sermon typically focuses on just one of these texts, various worship elements address themes found in all three. Today the hymn of discipleship echoes the Genesis narrative while the hymn of devotion has ties to the Gospel reading. The sermon is based on the reading from Romans in which the Apostle Paul talks about hope. What is the nature of hope, especially in Christian thought and life? It is a term we use often, but one that might benefit from deeper reflection. Wherever that reflection leads, we give thanks and praise to God for the gift of authentic hope.

* * * * *

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

"What Brought Us Together"
(from *Three Settings on Moravian Hymntunes*)

Sue Crocker

Michael Burkhardt

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 139

LEADER: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

PEOPLE: **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

LEADER: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

PEOPLE: **Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**

LEADER: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

PEOPLE: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

LEADER: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

PEOPLE: **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 634 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 28:10–19a

Lynn Marshbanks

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**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

“Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing” Sanctuary Choir

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great redeemer's praise.
That we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing alleluia.
All ye servants of the Lord, praise him forever.
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, praise him forever.
Sing of his righteousness, praise him forever.

Words and Music: Gordon Young

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 712

HANOVER

“The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy”

The Sermon

“The Nature of Christian Hope” 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.

*The Hymn of Discipleship, 636

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

“If You Will Trust in God To Guide You”

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

“Cwm Rhondda”

Sue Crocker

Arr. John Ferguson

*The congregation may stand.

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing*, Words and Music: Gordon Young, © 1956 Galaxy Music Corp; *The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy*, Words: Used by permission of Mrs. Morfydd Rees; *If You Will Trust in God To Guide You*, Words: Stanza 2 © Augsburg Publishing House. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Deacon on Call is Lynn Marshbanks. A member of First Baptist for 34 years, Lynn is a member of the Sharing Thoughts class and the Evening Handbell Choir. Lynn and her husband, David Kelley, have three children, Anna, Jonathan, and Jane.

The banner in the Sanctuary today is sponsored by Shirley and John Hobson; Lauren, Nick, Caroline, and Savannah Bradley; Randy Canady; and Donna and Keith Hardin in memory of Joanne Wilkins Canady, Polly Wilkins Garrard, Sam Garrard, and John Wilkins.

The acolytes today are Laura and Thomas Archer.

We thank Sue Crocker for her leadership in this morning's service.

Sympathy to Emily Johnson on the July 14 death of her sister, Becky Wines.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of July 20, we have received \$2,755 towards our goal of \$10,000. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Please note: although the work on the front steps of our sanctuary did not begin last week as planned, we expect it to start tomorrow. After today, 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.

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. See more details in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

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.

Visiting? We'd love to get to know you. Scan the QR code to the right to share your contact information.



Calendar Highlights

July 23–30

Sunday, July 23

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

Tuesday, July 25

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

Wednesday, July 26

- 10:00 High school Bible study (Blue Room)

Thursday, July 27

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, July 30

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Summer youth group (Blue Room)