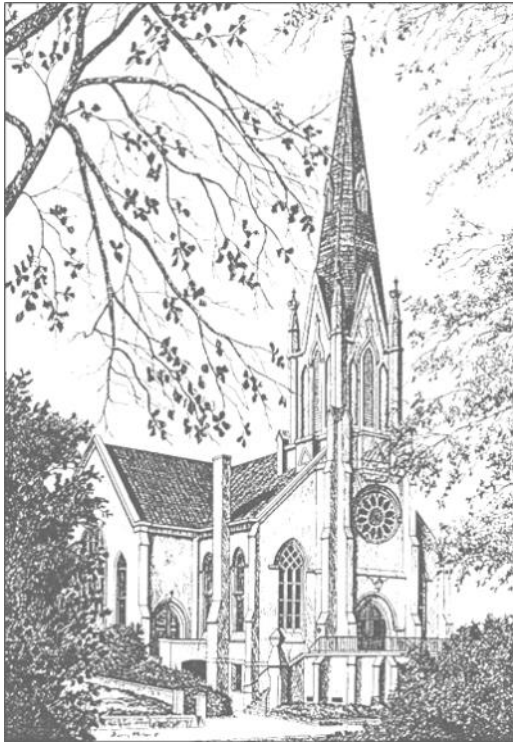


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 30, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, we read three lengthy texts which do not seem to be connected. They are part of what is called lectio continua which is used in Ordinary Time, continual readings of biblical books — this summer from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew. But the texts are connected. Each explores the nature of God's relationship with humankind. The Genesis passage picks up on the psalmist's reference to God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Romans text speaks of our relationship with God through Christ as something nothing can tear apart. In the reading from Matthew, Jesus tells parables to enable us to catch glimpses of the kingdom or realm of God. Though the images vary, each text addresses the way God relates to us, thus deepening our understanding and moving us to gratitude and praise which we offer with prayers and songs, financial gifts and daily devotion.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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

"Chorale Prelude on SLANE"
Healey Willan

Sue Crocker

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 105

LEADER: O give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name; make known
God's deeds among the peoples.

PEOPLE: **Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and tell of God's wonderful works.**

LEADER: Seek God's presence and strength continually, and remember the
wonderful works God has done.

PEOPLE: **God is mindful of the covenant forever, the covenant made
with Abraham, sworn to Isaac, and confirmed to Jacob as a
statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant.**

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 26 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 29:15–28

Lynn Loomis

¹⁵Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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 13:31–33, 44–52

³¹He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me”

Sanctuary Choir

K. Lee Scott, arr.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
help me know Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee;
and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal;
and, with actions bold and meek, for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;
and, with wisdom kind and clear, Thy life in mine appear;
and, with actions, lovingly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
show Thy mercy tenderly, make me more like Thee;
separate from sin I would and cherish all things good,
and whatever I can be give Him who gave me Thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
help me now Thy power to see, I would be like Thee;
'gainst all weapons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;
let Thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Words: Thomas Lynch, 1855

Tune: PROCESSIONALE, Paris, 1697

The Sermon

“Glimpses of God’s Realm”

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 of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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

“Cortege”
Flor Peeters

Sue Crocker

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Lynn Loomis. A 25-year member of First Baptist, Lynn serves as Preschool Music and Movement leader and serves as the chair of the Nominating Committee and is a planner for Toy Joy. She is a member of the Sanctuary Choir and the Everett Miller Friendship class and is a teacher for Grade 3–5 Sunday School class. Lynn and her husband Bill have a blended family of five daughters, seven granddaughters, and three grandsons.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed by Lynn and Bill Loomis in honor of the homebound members of our church.

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

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of July 27, we have received \$2,905 towards our goal of \$10,000. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Please note: the work on the front steps of our sanctuary has begun. 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 calendar 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 30–August 6

Sunday, July 30

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

Monday, July 31

- 6:30 Ad hoc Sound Team meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 1

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 7:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 2

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

Thursday, August 3

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 6:00 Middle school pool party (Seven Oaks Swim Club)

Sunday, August 6

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