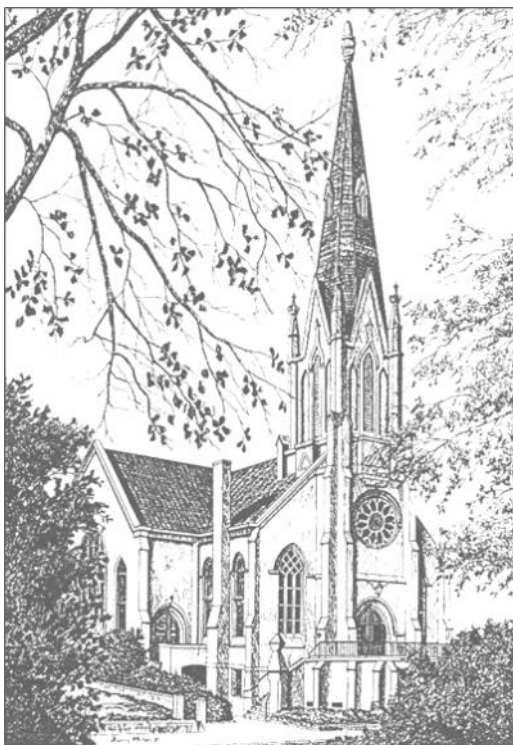


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 9, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. It is a season to consider possibilities for growth, and thus the liturgical color is green. The readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew focus respectively on the nature of God's providence, the character of salvation, and the life of Jesus. While each of these texts inspires thought, the sermon explores the Gospel reading as a window into the character of Jesus. The entire eleventh chapter of Matthew invites reflection on who Jesus is, which may seem like a simple task for the church, but we are talking about a man the church describes as human and divine, one who reveals the nature of a God who is beyond comprehension. Our understanding is ever incomplete and thus in need of expansion — for our enrichment and the sake of the world which is affected dramatically by the way people view Jesus. As we reflect on the character of Christ, we are moved to songs of praise and invited to share a sacred meal Christ initiated.

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

"Chant"
Wilbur Held

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

based on Song of Solomon 2:11-12

LEADER: Beloved of God, the winter is past,

PEOPLE: **the flowers appear on the earth,**

LEADER: the time of singing has come.

PEOPLE: **Let us lift our voices in praise to our Creator.**

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

³⁴So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. ³⁵The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

⁴²“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” ⁴⁴and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

⁴⁵“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” ⁶¹Then Rebekah and her

maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. ⁶²Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 7:15–25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Come unto Me”

Sanctuary Choir

Mark Blankenship

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

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 11:16–19, 25–30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 622

CONVERSE

Bob Kimball, solo

Anna Anderson, piano

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

(Congregation to join on stanzas 2 and 3)

The Homily


“Who Is Jesus?”

Christopher Chapman

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

TABLE OF GRACE



1. Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the



ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's



not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

2. Come to the table of love...

Words and Music: Barbara Hamm, 2008

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

Elaine Holley and Beth McCollum, violins

“He Shall Feed His Flock” (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

The Cup Is Shared

“Duet on *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*”

Lani Smith

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, 442

KINGSFOLD

“O Come to Me, the Master Said”

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

“Rigaudon”

Maureen Howell

André Campra

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Lacey Pegram. A 31-year member of First Baptist, Lacey is a PreK-Kindergarten Mission Friends leader, a Homebound Ministry visitor, and a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. She and her husband Jonathan have two children, Carter and Kinley.

The pulpit banner is placed by Wayne Hager in memory of Jimmy Thompson, a faithful and valued member of the FBC facility staff and a dear friend, who died July 11, 2022. The magnolia/laurel banner was commissioned and given to FBC by the Hager family in memory of Rev. Joy C. Hager.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the June 14 birth of Pierce Alain von Unruh, son of Brandon and Coralie.

Sympathy to Anita Jackson on the June 28 death of her brother, Allen Bower, and to Carole Wilson on the July 3 death of her mother, Doris Parham.

Please keep the 20 people going on the youth beach retreat and the 10 people going to Passport Kids next week in your prayers.

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 \$702 towards our goal of \$10,000. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

The clothing ministry is in desperate need of men's shirts and shorts for the summer. Any sizes and styles (t-shirts, short-sleeves, casual shirts, etc.) are happily accepted until July 15. After that, we will halt donations while repairs are made to the clothing ministry space.

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

July 9–16

Sunday, July 9

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Communion (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 4:30 Toy Joy meeting (conference room)

Monday, July 10–Friday, July 14

Youth beach retreat (Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores)

Monday, July 10–Thursday, July 13

Passport Kids (St. Andrews University, Laurinburg)

Monday, July 10

- 10:00 Clothing ministry

Tuesday, July 11

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

Thursday, July 13

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Saturday, July 15

- 8:00 Senior Night

Sunday, July 16

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