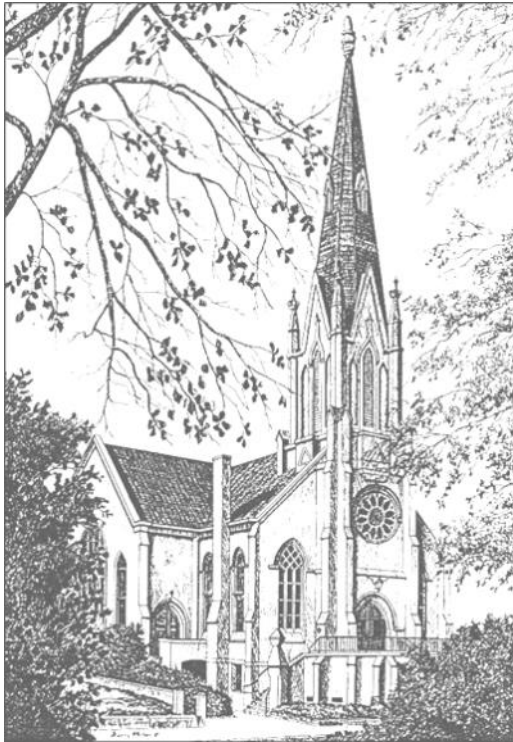


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 13, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, we continue with readings from Genesis, Romans, and Matthew. These texts, like most, blend elements of the human and the Divine, as the authors seek to narrate the ongoing relationship between God and humankind. As the Spirit has guided the development of these ancient texts, we seek the Spirit's guidance today. The sermon will explore the startling details of the Genesis reading in which Joseph's brothers nearly kill him before deciding to sell him into slavery. If God remains connected to this family after all of this, surely God remains connected to us. We celebrate this connection through communion, offering prayers of gratitude and singing songs of praise.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

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

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"
Kurt Kaiser

Maureen Howell
Beth McCollum, violin

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 85

LEADER: Let me hear what God will speak, for the Lord will speak peace to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

PEOPLE: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord so that God's glory may dwell in our land.

LEADER: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

PEOPLE: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

LEADER: The Lord will give what is good and our land will yield its increase.

PEOPLE: Righteousness will go before the Lord and will make a path for God's steps.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 21

“How Great Thou Art”

O STORE GUD

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Art Jackson

¹Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶"I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some

Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

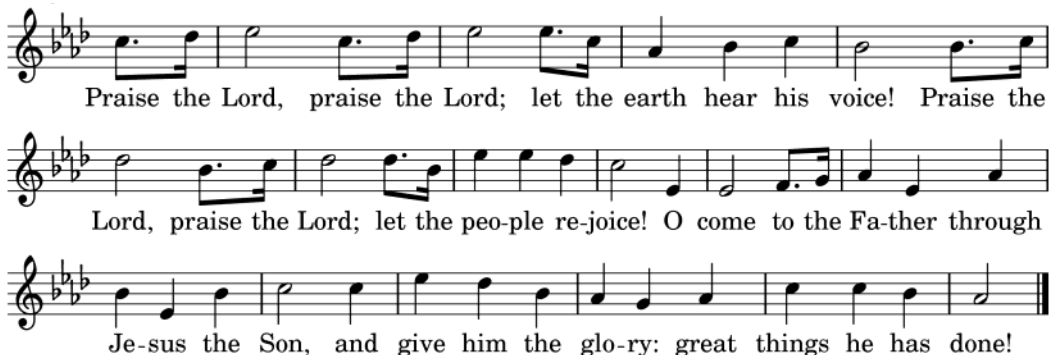
Romans 10:5–15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!"

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1875
Music: W. Howard Doane, 1875

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 14:22–33

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion "We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight" DUNLAP'S CREEK

Verse 1: solo; verses 2-4: all



1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
2. We may not touch his hands and side,
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief;
4. That, when our life of faith is done,



no gra - cious words we hear
nor fol - low where he trod;
and may our faith a - bound
in realms of clear - er light



from him who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but in his prom - ise we re - joice,
to call on you when you are near,
we may be - hold you as you are,



but we be - lieve him near.
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
and seek where you are found.
with full and end - less sight.

Words: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
Music: Samuel McFarland, c. 1814

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"Learning from a Very Human Story in Which God Is Involved"

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Anthem

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

Sanctuary Choir

Gary Matheny, arr.

O living bread from heaven,
How you have fed your guest!
The gifts you now have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing,
O cup that heals our woes,
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows!

My Lord, you here have led me
Within your holiest place,
And here yourself have fed me
With treasures of your grace;
And you have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted,
This food can death destroy;
And you have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before your throne.

Words: Johann Rist, 1651

Catherine Winkworth, tr.

Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1850

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

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, 701

“God Is Here!”

BEECHER

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

“Carillon on DUNLAP’S CREEK”

Maureen Howell

James Biery

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Art Jackson. Art has been a member of First Baptist for a total of 28 years and is a member of the Personnel Committee and the Counting Team. He is also a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School class and the Sanctuary Choir. Art and his wife Anita have two sons, Will (Sara) and Stuart (Melissa), and five grandchildren.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Jerry H. Stevens and Rolin Ashton Stevens by Berti Stevens and family.

We are saddened to share news of the July 20 death of Harold Stuart.

Please join us this evening at 7pm for our *End-of-Summer Dessert & Entertainment* fellowship, featuring ragtime-jazz-swing pianist-entertainer, Ethan Uslan. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Theology on Tap will meet at Clouds Brewing (126 N. West Street, Raleigh) on Thursday, August 17, at 6pm.

The first Toy Joy collection day will be next Sunday, August 20, from 12-3pm in the fellowship hall. We're accepting new or gently used toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, and books. Please make sure that all used items are clean and in very good condition, with ALL of their pieces and parts included.

The Japanese church will be hosting a lunch and bazaar on Sunday, August 27, immediately following worship in the fellowship hall. The cost for a traditional Japanese lunch is \$10, and no tickets or RSVP are required. Please make plans to join us for a delicious meal with all proceeds supporting the work of our Japanese congregation!

Our August mission project is collecting children's clothing (summer and fall weights, boys & girls: 2T-4T, children's extra small-medium and teen boys: small-large) and shoes (toddler, sizes 6-13, and children, sizes 1-3; close-toed preferred) for the clothing ministry. Place your donations in the Lewis Lobby drawers.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of August 10, we have received \$3,105 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 is underway. 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.

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



Calendar Highlights

August 13–20

Sunday, August 13

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Communion (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Summer youth group (Blue Room)
- 7:00 *End-of-Summer Dessert and Entertainment* (fellowship hall)

Monday, August 14

- 5:30 Adult Ministries Council meeting (Zoom)
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)

Tuesday, August 15

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

Wednesday, August 16

- 10:00 High school Bible study (Blue Room)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, August 17

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 11:00 Thirty-Niners outing (Relish Craft Kitchen)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Clouds Brewing, 126 N. West Street)

Sunday, August 20

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Toy Joy collection (fellowship hall)