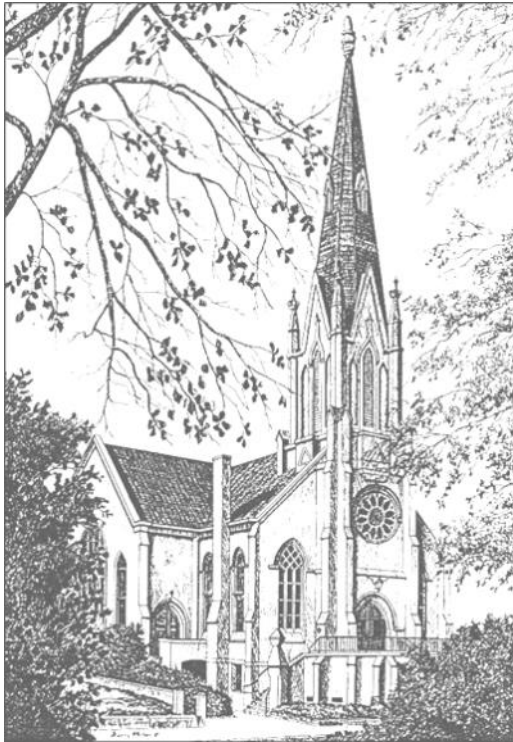


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 20, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: We begin worship today, as always, with the trinity chimes and prelude which allow us time to center our hearts and minds on the presence of God. We then offer praise to God with words of prayer and songs of adoration. We listen for the voice of God speaking through the reading of scripture, the act of preaching, the gift of music, the companionship of fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith, the majesty of our sanctuary, and silence. We respond with the dedication of our lives and the commitment of our financial resources. We are sent forth to live with the hope embedded in the reading from Genesis, the hope that broken things can be mended because God will never give up on us.

* * * * *

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

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
David S. Harris

Maureen Howell

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 95

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

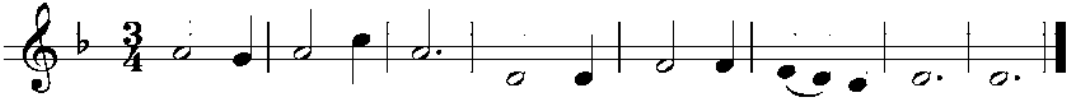
CORONATION

The Psalter (responsive)

Psalm 133

Tonya Carter, cantor

Refrain



God of love and mcr - cy, bring pce to all your peo - ple.

CANTOR: How good when all the earth is one, and hearts embrace
community; when strife will cease to separate, and love binds all
in unity.

REFRAIN

CANTOR: As oil anointed Aaron’s head, and dew adorns the mountainside,
so peace and blessing of the Lord within the faithful heart abide.

REFRAIN

Words: Hal H. Hopson and Michael Morgan, alt.

Music: Hal H. Hopson and English Folksong

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 45:1-15

Robbie Puckett

¹Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹"Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

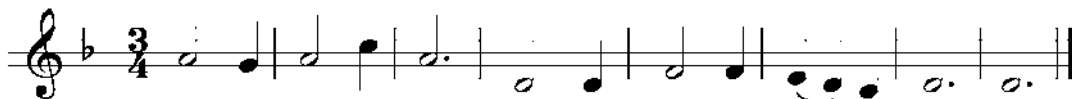
¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain



God of love and mer - cy, bring peace to all your peo - ple.

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

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Sanctuary Choir

Calvin Hampton

Becky Mercer, flute

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, we could take him at his word,
and our lives would be more loving by the likeness of our Lord.

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1862

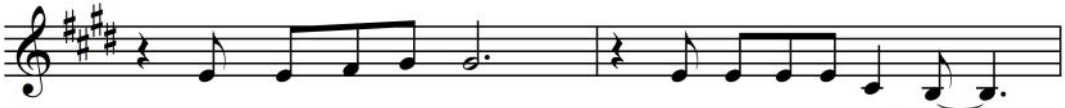
The Gospel

Matthew 15:10–20

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. For ev - ery - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,
2. For wom - an and man,	a place at the ta - ble,
3. For young and for old,	a place at the ta - ble,
4. For just and un - just,	a place at the ta - ble,
5. For ev - ery - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born,	clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles,	de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard,	a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused,	with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear,	and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space,	a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace,	di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child	in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt,	a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out,	to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born,	a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man,	a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old,	the right to be - long.
for just and un - just,	a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born,	the right to be free.

Refrain

And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus-tice, and
 joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy!

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998
 Music: Brian Mann, 2006

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman
 “Sticking with It to the Not-So-Bitter End”

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 “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

MORNING SONG

**“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light Your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.**

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1986, alt.
Music: Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell
Becky Mercer, flute

*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

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Hal H. Hopson

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Robbie Puckett. A 40-year member, Robbie serves as the leader of WMU Group Seven and is a member of the John Hiott Fellowship Sunday School class. She has two daughters and four grandchildren.

The altar flowers have been placed in honor of the ministerial staff with a donation made to the Day Mission Fund by Greg and Marchelle Flowers.

Meg Foster is our offering helper today, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

The clothing ministry will reopen Monday, September 11, and to prepare for our reopening, starting Wednesday, August 30, we will resume receiving clothing donations. If you have a large amount (more than 4–5 bags' worth), please contact Sabrina Tyndall (cmvolunteercoordinator.fbc@gmail.com) to arrange a drop-off.

JBC lunch and bazaar next Sunday, August 27, immediately following worship in the fellowship hall—traditional Japanese lunch for \$10, no tickets or RSVP required.

Our August mission project is collecting children's clothing (see the *Rose Window Weekly* for sizes and items needed). 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 \$3,205 towards our goal of \$10,000. Details may be found 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

August 20–27

Sunday, August 20

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

Tuesday, August 22

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

Wednesday, August 23

- 10:00 High school Bible study (Blue Room)
- 5:00 Sunday School teachers' dinner and meeting (301)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, August 24

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 4:00 Fifth Grade pool party (Lake Park pool)

Sunday, August 27

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 JBC lunch and bazaar (fellowship hall)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 4:00 And Also with 'Cue board meeting (Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth ministry kick-off (Blue Room)

First Baptist Church

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