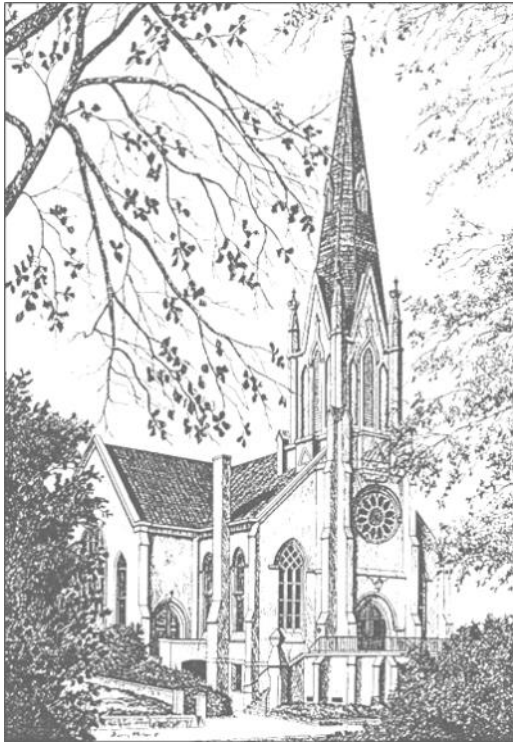


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 27, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: We begin worship today with multiple reminders through sacred music and spoken words of how God has sustained us in the past, which give us confidence in God's care for the future. We listen then for new insights into how God works, as three readings point to God's use of those with less power, the diversity of gifts in the church, and the centrality of Christ. The sermon explores the narrative from Exodus in which the Israelites' future deliverer, Moses, is completely dependent upon the courageous actions of women. All of this moves us to acts of worship and devotion, and it challenges us to consider whether we are embracing fully all the ways God works among us, all the gifts God gives us.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

"How Firm a Foundation"
Edwin Childs

Maureen Howell
Mark Beamish, trumpet

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 124

LEADER: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side when our enemies attacked us,

PEOPLE: then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

LEADER: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

PEOPLE: then over us would have gone the raging waters.

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

PEOPLE: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;

LEADER: the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

PEOPLE: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 78

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Jason Gardner

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go

and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?”
⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 12:1–8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer (Sung)

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then a half note B3. The second system continues the vocal line with a half note C5, followed by a quarter note D5, and then a half note E5. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note C4, followed by a quarter note D4, and then a half note E4. The lyrics are: "At your al - tars, at your al - tars, at your al - tars, O God, the spar - row finds a home."

Words and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 2007

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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

“Sing of the Lord’s Goodness”

Sanctuary Choir

Earnest Sands

Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us,
his love is forever,
faithful to the end of days.

*Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.*

Power he has wielded,
honor is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken,
one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.

Courage in our darkness,
comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary,
pardon for the sinner,
splendor of the living God.

Praise him with your singing,
praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp;
praise him with the cymbals,
praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 612 “How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Where Would We Be Without Women?”

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.

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

**Called as partners in Christ’s service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God’s chosen end.**

**Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.**

**Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.**

Text: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Tune: Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

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

“Postlude on NETTLETON”

Maureen Howell

Mark Hayes

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jason Gardner. A nine-year member, Jason serves as the Sunday School Assistant Director and is on the Food Trailer Board. He is also a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. Jason and his wife Kati have two children, Kennedy and Eleanor.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary by Rhonda Lowe and Dennis Francis in honor of Rodney Mobley, Willard Mallette, and Alex Harris and in memory of Jimmy Thompson, who care for our church — its people and the physical facility — in so many ways. We can't thank you enough for your dedication and service to our community and congregation.

Our acolytes today are Asher and Chase Helms.

Sympathy to the family of Fannie Memory Mitchell, who died August 21.

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

Church conference: Wednesday, August 30; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm, in person and via Zoom (link and documents may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*).

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for August 30 is: pork tenderloin with sweet potatoes and veggies; non-meat option: vegetarian meatballs; kids: mac-n-cheese.

RISE Against Hunger: Sunday, September 17, at 12:15pm in the fellowship hall. RSVP to Nancy Moore Phillips (nancyp919@gmail.com) by Wednesday, September 13, to help us pack 10,000 meals

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 17, we have received \$3,205 towards our goal of \$10,000.

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 27–September 3

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)

Tuesday, August 29

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 5:30 Mission leaders' dinner and meeting (301)

Wednesday, August 30

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:15 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, August 31

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 5:00 Children's new year kick-off pizza & pool party (Lake Park pool)

Sunday, September 3

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 JBC worship and potluck (301/302)
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)

First Baptist Church
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