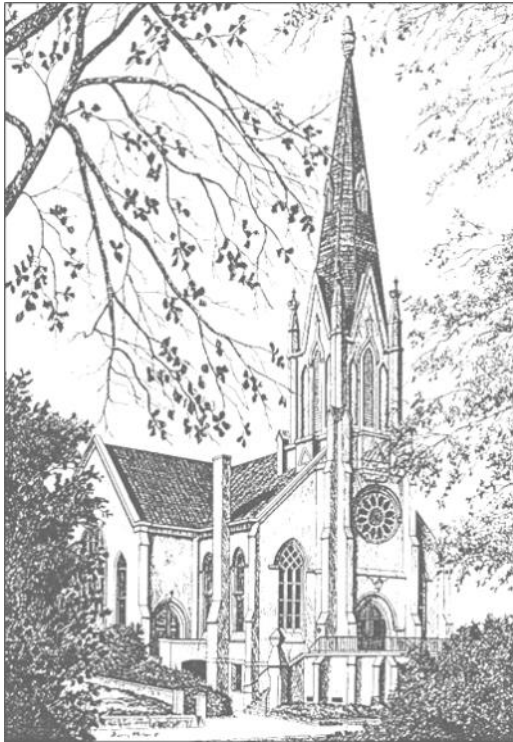


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 6, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 6, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. It is a season to consider possibilities for growth, as symbolized by the green stoles and altar cloth. Growth is stirred by many different things, but it often comes when we ask honest questions, questions about faith, God, the world, and ourselves. The sermon will explore a number of questions found within or raised by the reading from Genesis about Jacob wrestling with a mysterious figure in the night. The good news is that our God welcomes questions and always seeks to help us grow through them. We offer praise to this God through the gift of music, the discipline of prayer, and the commitment of lives.

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

"The New Commonwealth"
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 145

LEADER: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is good to all and extends compassion to all creation.**

LEADER: The Lord is faithful in all words, and gracious in all deeds.

PEOPLE: **The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.**

LEADER: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

PEOPLE: **You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

LEADER: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

PEOPLE: **and all flesh will bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 77

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 32:22-31

Dennis Ellis

²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

²⁶Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷So he said to him, “What is your name?”

And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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.**

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 433

GERMANY

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

The Sermon “Exploring the Questions” Christopher Chapman

The Anthem “King of Glory, King of Peace” Sanctuary Choir
K. Lee Scott

King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me.

Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll Thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol Thee.

Words: George Herbert, 1633

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, 531

ST. MARGARET

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

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

“Postludium”

Maureen Howell

Ron Boud

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Keith Lewis. A lifetime member of First Baptist, Keith serves on the Nominating Committee and is a member of the Formation Sunday School Class. He and his wife Mary Jane have three married children — Kelly, Caroline, and Abby — and one granddaughter, Sophia.

The banner is dedicated by the Cooper family in appreciation for many family groups who drive the church bus weekly assisting members at Springmoor and other locations, and for those who provide physical and monetary assistance for families with medical needs.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

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 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.

Please join us on Sunday, August 13, 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 detail. If you can bring a dessert, please sign up at [FBC: FBC Dessert Potluck \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com).

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 6–13

Sunday, August 6

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

Tuesday, August 8

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

Wednesday, August 9

- 10:00 High school Bible study (Blue Room)
- 7:00 Adult choir ice cream party (Childrey home)
- 7:30 Senior Night (Blue Room)

Thursday, August 10

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

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)