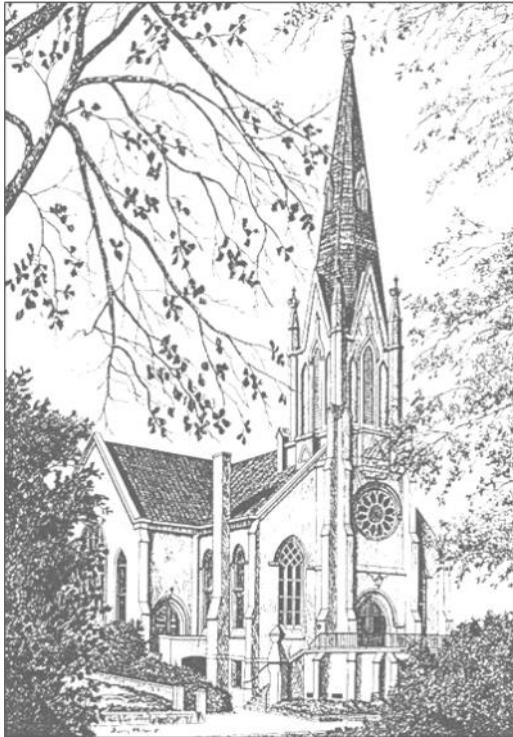


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 10, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: The texts for today's service explore different aspects of faithfulness. The reading from Exodus establishes the ritual meal of Passover which anticipates the ritual of communion that we celebrate today. The reading from Romans explores the relationship between love and the commandments while calling for a sense of urgency in how we live. The reading from Matthew offers help for a common need we often try to deny or avoid — conflict. While different elements of the service express all these themes, the sermon examines Jesus' counsel about conflict, especially his assurance of companionship in struggle. We sing songs of praise to the God who is with us always, we pray for healing wherever there is brokenness, and we celebrate in communion our connections to God and each other, which are made stronger through an honest engagement of differences.

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

"Fugue in C Major"
G.F. Handel

Maureen Howell

The Introit

"Hallelujah, Amen"
G.F. Handel

Sanctuary Choir

Hallelujah, amen. O Judah, rejoice in songs divine,
with cherubim and seraphim harmonious join!
Hallelujah, amen.

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 149

LEADER: Praise the Lord!

PEOPLE: Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful,

LEADER: for the Lord takes pleasure in the people.

PEOPLE: Let the faithful sing for joy.

*The Hymn of Praise, 346

“Sing Praise to the Lord”

HANOVER

The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 12:1-14

Derek Foster

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

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 18:15–20

¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 563

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“A Roadmap to Reconciliation and a Bit of Grace”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Anthem

“More Love”
Sid Davis, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

More love, more love. The heavens are blessing,
the angels are calling, O Zion, more love.
If ye love not each other in daily communion,
how can ye love God whom ye have not seen?

Words and Music: Shaker Hymn
Canterbury, N.H., c. 1870

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, 507 “I Then Shall Live”

FINLANDIA

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

“Allegretto”
Robert J. Powell

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Derek Foster. A 22-year member, Derek is a co-teacher for the Grades 3–5 Sunday School class and a member of The Journey class. Derek and his wife Jen, have three children: Jay, Luke, and Meg.

The flowers are given today by Emily Johnson in loving memory of her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson, and her sister, Becky Wines.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 13; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm.

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 September 13 is: spaghetti and green beans; non-meat: veggie spaghetti; kids: spaghetti.

Please keep the five people going on the third–fifth grade retreat to Betsy Jeff Penn 4H Camp in Reidsville in your prayers. They are leaving Friday, September 15, and returning Sunday, September 17.

We remember the roughly 40 members of our church family who are participating in the MS Bike Ride in New Bern this weekend.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has knitted many pocket prayer shawls, which they would like to share with you. You will find baskets full of them in the Gathering Room and the narthex and in the Lewis Building lobby. Please pick one up for yourself and a loved one or friend who could use the comfort it provides.

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.

The mission project for September is supporting Toy Joy either by donating money to purchase toys and needed supplies, by shopping for new toys, or by donating used toys. The next donation day for used items is September 24, 12–3pm, in the fellowship hall. Please note: this day and the one in October are the only dates we can accept and process used donations (you may bring new donations at any time). See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information.

Interest in joining a yoga class? Join us Tuesdays, 1:30–3:30pm, from September 26 until December 21 in room 302. Cost: \$20/class or \$240 for the 12-week session. Please bring all of your own gear. If you have not been to this class, please email Julie Rosier (yogawithjulie@me.com) to register.

Our NC Missions Offering helps fund non-profit organizations doing work and providing services primarily in North Carolina. Through the generosity of FBC members, we have received \$391.36.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of September 7, we have received \$3,705 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 • September 10–17

Sunday, September 10

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/communion (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
First grade worship prep class (231)
- 12:00 Everette Miller luncheon (302)
- 5:00 Toy Joy meeting (Zoom)
Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall/Blue Room)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, September 11

- 10:00 Clothing ministry reopens
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Tuesday, September 12

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

Wednesday, September 13

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:15 Centerpoint(fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (children's and preschool suites)
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, September 14

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 High school Bible study (Sasser home)

Friday, September 15–Sunday, September 17

3rd–5th grade retreat

Sunday, September 17

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Rise Against Hunger meal-packing (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall/Blue Room)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)