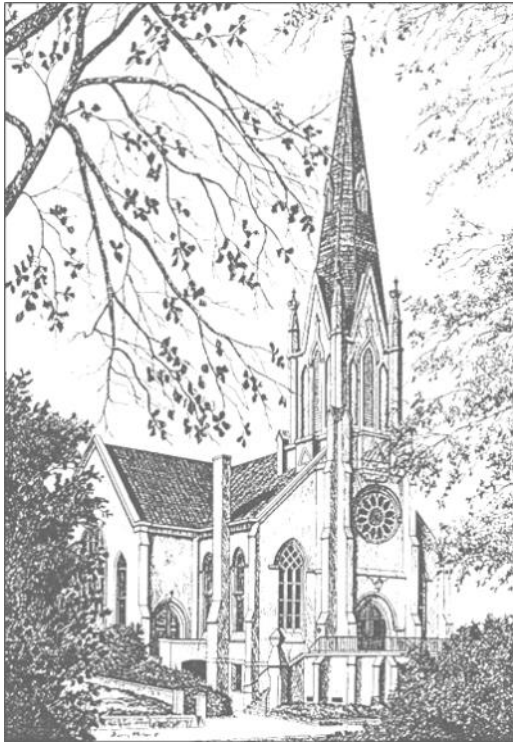


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 24, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: In this lengthy season after Pentecost, we continue to follow the Israelites on their journey from bondage toward the Promised Land. It is an ancient story, yet one that still seems familiar. God extends grace to the people, they are grateful, then they meet a new challenge and complain about their condition, and so God extends grace once again. It is a cycle that repeats itself in their lives and ours. Thus, we gather with gratitude for God's patience and love, we pray for all who feel the most challenged now, and we sing praises to the God who extends grace to us again and again.

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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

"Come, Ye Disconsolate"  
Eleanor Whitsett

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 105

LEADER: O give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name; make known  
God's deeds among the peoples.

**PEOPLE: Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and tell of God's wonderful works.**

LEADER: Seek God's presence and strength continually and remember the  
wonderful works God has done.

**PEOPLE: God is mindful of the covenant forever, the covenant made  
with Abraham, sworn to Isaac, and confirmed to Jacob as a  
statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant.**

LEADER: The people asked, and God gave them food from heaven in  
abundance.

**PEOPLE: The Lord opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed  
through the desert like a river.**

LEADER: God brought the people out with joy.

**PEOPLE: Praise the Lord!**

\*The Hymn of Praise, 634 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

\*The Invocation

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 16:1–15

<sup>1</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” <sup>8</sup>And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” <sup>10</sup>And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>The Lord spoke to Moses and said, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

<sup>13</sup>In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Open Thou Mine Eyes”

Sanctuary Choir

Benjamin Harlan

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see.  
 Open thou mine ears and I shall hear.  
 Incline my heart and I shall desire,  
 order my steps and I shall walk  
 the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God  
 that I may love you, that I may serve you,  
 and adore you. That I may follow you,  
 that I may look to you. Amen.

Words: based upon a prayer by Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

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.**

<sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 379 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“A Time To Complain and a Time To Refrain from Complaining”

## 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, 613 “Come, Ye Disconsolate”

CONSOLATOR

## 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

“Recessional on CWM RHONDDA”  
Paul Manz

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Mallory Underwood. A 25-year member, Mallory is a member of the Formations Sunday School Class. She and her husband Chuck have three children: Bailey, Drew and Jackson.

Our acolytes today are Carter and Kinley Pegram.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Christy Isaacs Alston, on what would have been her 53rd birthday on September 23 by her son, Alejandro Alston, and her parents, Linda and Dan Roberts.

Join the choir for Christmas! We'll have a Christmas music lunch and workshop today, 12-2:30pm, in room 301 and then 310. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm. Hope to see you there.

Church conference: Wednesday, September 27; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See *Rose Window Weekly* for Zoom link and documents.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice)), by email ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for September 27 is: chicken and shrimp stir fry; non-meat: veggie stir fry; kids: spring rolls.

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. Today (12-3pm) is one of the donation days for used items. Please note: today and October 15 are the only dates we can accept and process used donations (you may bring new donations at any time). See *Rose Window Weekly* for more information.

Interested 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 session. Please bring all of your own gear. Email Julie Rosier ([yogawithjulie@me.com](mailto:yogawithjulie@me.com)) to register.

Burning Coal Theatre's Oakwood Cemetery Series returns this month with outdoor performances of a play based on the murder of Ludlow Skinner, the son of FBC pastor Thomas Skinner, who was shot and killed on Fayetteville Street in 1903. *Butterfly Wings* will be performed Friday and Saturday, September 29 and 30, at 6:30pm, and Sunday, October 1, at 2pm. Tickets: \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and are available at <https://burningcoal.org/oakwood-and-history-plays/>.

On Sunday, October 1, from 9-9:45am, we will have an appreciation breakfast for all our adult Sunday School teachers. Join us in the fellowship hall to discuss teaching techniques and materials, ways to engage with classmates, and ways to integrate visitors, all while enjoying a delicious breakfast!

Next Sunday, the Scriptural Serendipity class will begin a study of the movement and influence of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. We meet in room 219, and all are invited and welcome to join us!

Join us for the Blessing of the Animals service Sunday, October 1, at 5pm at the Oak Room shelter at Dorothea Dix park. All animals welcome (leashed or in a carrier!).

The CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 29. You can support the Walk and the FBC teams by walking or donating. Read more details in *Rose Window Weekly*.

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 \$491.36.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of September 21, we have received \$3,907 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 24–October 1

### Sunday, September 24

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)  
First grade worship prep class (231)
- 12:00 Toy Joy toy collection (fellowship hall)  
Adult choir lunch & rehearsal (301/310)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall/Blue Room)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

### Monday, September 25

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 5:00 Deacons' meeting (302)

### Tuesday, September 26

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga class (319)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven board meeting (conference room)

### Wednesday, September 27

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

### Thursday, September 28

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

### Sunday, October 1 *World Communion Sunday*

- 9:00 Adult Sunday School teachers' breakfast (fellowship hall)  
Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/deacon ballots available (sanctuary & YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)  
First grade worship prep class (231)
- 5:00 Blessing of the Animals (Oak Room shelter/Dix park)