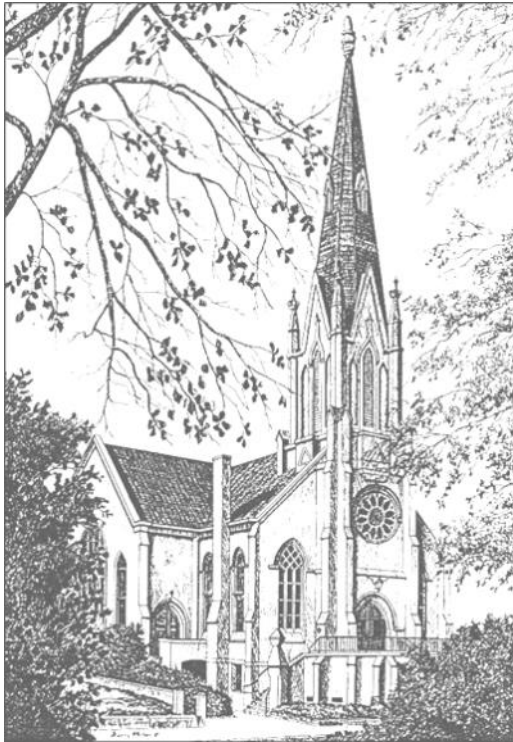


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 3, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: After focusing on readings from the Hebrew canon for a number of weeks, we shift our focus today to the Christian Testament and Gospel text. In the reading from Matthew, Jesus speaks of a radical calling to deny self, take up a cross, and follow him. In the reading from Romans, we find a concise description of what it means to follow Jesus. Things like love, humility, hospitality, and the resolve to overcome evil with good take center place. The service music reflects this theme as we proclaim that goodness is stronger than evil, wonder if Jesus must bear his cross alone, affirm that Jesus is our only joy, and long for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

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

Maureen Howell

"Song Without Words" (Contemplation) Op. 30, No. 1
Felix Mendelssohn

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 God, sing praises to God, tell others about the Lord's wonderful works.**

LEADER: Seek the Lord, earnestly yearn for God's presence and strength.

PEOPLE: **Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles, the judgments God has uttered, O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

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

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 66

"The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 3:1-15

Charles Gale

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer (sung)

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than
 hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;
 life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is
 ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is
 ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

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

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”
Dick Anthony, arr.

Men's Choir

Jesus, the very thought of Thee,
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name
O Savior of mankind!

O Hope of every contrite heart,
O Joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art!
How good to those who seek!

Jesus, our only joy be Thou,
As Thou our prize wilt be:
Jesus, be Thou our glory now,
And through eternity.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th C.
Edward Caswall, tr., 1849, alt.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:21–28

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 658

MAITLAND

“Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“An Alternative to the Meanness and Claws”

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.

“O for a World”

**O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.**

Mariam Therese Winter, 1987

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 AZMON”
Paul Johnson

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Charles Gale. A 16-year member, Charles is a member of The Journey Sunday School class and the Nominating Committee. He is also a coach for the youth basketball team and a member of the adult softball team.

The pulpit banner is sponsored by Bobby and Nancy Phillips in honor of the leaders who work with our Mission Friends, GAs, and RAs each Wednesday night as they guide them in their faith journey to put their beliefs into action. Proceeds received are given to the Day Mission Fund.

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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 7; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, Bob Talley will give us an update on changes with state government buildings.

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 6 is: chicken and rice with broccoli medley; non-meat option: mock chicken and rice; kids: nuggets.

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.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. As of August 31, we have received \$3,280 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 3–10

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4

Labor Day — church office closed

Tuesday, September 5

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 7:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 6

- 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 7

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

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 (301)
Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall/Blue Room)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)