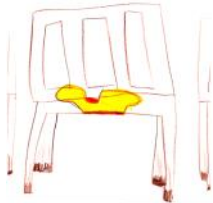


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



Blue



Caroline



Willis



Charley



Willis

October 22, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 22, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: This time of year, it has been traditional for our first graders to receive Bibles after having spent several weeks learning about worship as they prepare to join us regularly. Fifth graders have served as mentors in our worship preparation class, assisting with learning centers and with leadership in this service. We continue all of these traditions and have included second graders in our class as well. As the children of our church lead us through worship, we reflect on God's goodness as told to us through our scriptures. Today's sermon offers invitations to organize our lives around God, letting go of the things that we are able to in response to that goodness.

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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

"St. Felix"
Betty Roe

Sue Crocker

The Call to Worship

Remi Phillips

LEADER: We're here to worship you, God.

ALL: We're here to worship you, God.

LEADER: We see the cross on our communion table, and it reminds us of Jesus, of how he died on the cross and came alive again, of how much he loves us. One part points up to heaven and the other part points to each side, and it is a reminder each time we see it to love God and love the people around us.

ALL: Focus us on your redeeming love.

LEADER: We see the candles flickering, and they remind us that Jesus is our light, the one who is always with us, the one who guides us and shows us the way ahead.

ALL: Settle us in your steady presence.

LEADER: We see the open Bible, and it reminds us of the stories of how much God loves the world and wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated; of the actual stories Jesus told and the words Jesus said.

ALL: Center us in your Word and help us to gladly be a part of your holy story. Lead us as we worship you.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 22

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

ST. THOMAS

The Presentation of Bibles

Caroline Bradley, Raelyn Sidner, Charley Teague, Willis Tennant

The Prayer of Blessing (unison)

Lynn Lingafelt

Loving God, we give thanks for the stories of faith we find in the Bible and for all who help us to understand these stories. We give thanks for the gift of children and the excitement they bring to every opportunity to learn. Bless these children as they seek to grow in faith. Guide our efforts as a church that we may prove faithful to our calling to tell the stories of our faith to our children and grandchildren. Grant us the grace to realize that we have as much to learn from children as we have to teach them. For we offer our prayer in the name of Jesus who welcomes children into his arms in love and says that to such as these belongs the kingdom of God, amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 33:12-23

Eleanor Gardner

¹²Moses said to the Lord, "I know that you have told me to lead these people to the land you promised them. But you have not said who will go along to help me. You have said that you are my friend and that you are pleased with me. ¹³If this is true, let me know what your plans are, then I can obey and continue to please you. And don't forget that you have chosen this nation to be your own."

¹⁴The Lord said, "I will go with you and give you peace."

¹⁵Then Moses replied, "If you aren't going with us, please don't make us leave this place. ¹⁶But if you do go with us, everyone will know that you are pleased with your people and with me. That way, we will be different from the rest of the people on earth."

¹⁷So the Lord told him, "I will do what you have asked, because I am your friend and I am pleased with you."

¹⁸Then Moses said, "I pray that you will let me see you in all of your glory."

¹⁹The Lord answered: All right. I am the Lord, and I show mercy and kindness to anyone I choose. I will let you see my glory and hear my holy name, ²⁰but I won't let you see my face, because anyone who sees my face will die. ²¹There is a rock not far from me. Stand beside it, ²²and before I pass by in all of my shining glory, I will put you in a large crack in the rock. I will cover your eyes with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back. You will not see my face. (CEV)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹From Paul, Silas, and Timothy. To the church in Thessalonica, the people of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that God will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

²We thank God for you and always mention you in our prayers. Each time we pray, ³we tell God our Father about your faith and loving work and about your firm hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴My dear friends, God loves you, and we know he has chosen you to be his people. ⁵When we told you the good news, it was with the power and assurance that come from the Holy Spirit, and not simply with words. You knew what kind of people we were and how we helped you. ⁶So, when you accepted the message, you followed our example and the example of the Lord. You suffered, but the Holy Spirit made you glad. ⁷You became an example for all the Lord's followers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸And because of you, the Lord's message has spread everywhere in those regions. Now the news of your faith in God is known all over the world, and we don't have to say a thing about it. ⁹Everyone is talking about how you welcomed us and how you turned away from idols to serve the true and living God. ¹⁰They also tell how you are waiting for his Son Jesus to come from heaven. God raised him from death, and on the day of judgment Jesus will save us from God's anger. (CEV)

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.**

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea - tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

Verses

- 1. Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, Each
- 2. The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, The
- 3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The
- 4. God gave us eyes to see them, And

- 1. lit - tle bird that sings, God made their glow - ing
- 2. riv - er run - ning by, The sun - set, and the
- 3. pleas - ant sum - mer sun, The ripe fruits in the
- 4. lips that we might tell How great is God Al -

- 1. col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
- 2. morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky.
- 3. gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
- 4. might - y, Who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Francis Alexander, 1848

Music: English Traditional

¹⁵The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong. ¹⁶They sent some of their followers and some of Herod's followers to say to him, "Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are. ¹⁷Tell us what you think! Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?" ¹⁸Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said, "Why are you trying to test me? You show-offs! ¹⁹Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes." They brought him a silver coin, ²⁰and he asked, "Whose picture and name are on it?" ²¹"The Emperor's," they answered. Then Jesus told them, "Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God." ²²His answer surprised them so much that they walked away. (CEV)

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

"Be Thou My Vision"

Sanctuary Choir

Alice Parker, arr.

Anna Anderson, dir.

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
Thou my Creator, I Thy true child.
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Trad. Irish, trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905;
vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt
Music: Traditional Irish Ballad

The Sermon

Michael Hood

“What Belongs to God?”

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, 644

BEACH SPRING

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

Eleanor Gardner, Remi Phillips, Megan Wood

Michael Hood

*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

“Toccatà for Harvest”

Sue Crocker

Martin Setchell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Nick Bradley. A nine-year member and a first-term deacon, Nick is a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. He and his wife Lauren have two daughters, Caroline and Savannah.

With joy his grandparents welcome Jack's little brother, and the newest member of our family, Brooks William Padget, born May 21, 2023. Love, Bebe, Poppie, Mimi and PopPop.

Our Call to Worship was written collectively by our Worship Preparation class.

Our acolytes today are Ellen and Beth Tennant.

Our thanks to Sue Crocker for serving as today's guest organist.

Deacon elections continue until Sunday, October 29. You may submit your ballot in the offering plate at Sunday worship services, in the ballot box in the church office, or by mailing it to the church office. Address questions to any of the current deacons. Please prayerfully consider your choices for our deacon leadership.

Church conference: Wednesday, October 25; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and Zoom link.

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 on October 25 is: orange chicken with fried rice and veggies; non-meat option: mock chicken; kids: spring or egg roll.

The new Sunday School class, *Connections*, invites people, regardless of age or life status, to join them Sundays at 9:45 in room 224 for fellowship and for studying God's word together. For more information about the class, please contact Tonya and Lin Carter (tonyacarter5@gmail.com) and/or Lou Anne and John Liverman (louanne.live@gmail.com).

Join us today from 3–7pm for the Fall Festival at Optimist Farm (2908 Optimist Farm Road in Apex). The cost is \$10 per ticket, with a cap of \$40 per family, payable online on the church's website, the Give + Kiosk, cash or check via the church office, or by using the QR code on flyers around the church.

Our mission project for October is the CROP Walk, which 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*.

Toy Joy is November 11 and we need volunteers for set-up the day before as well as for both morning and afternoon sessions the day of the event. We also need people who would like to provide entertainment in the afternoon. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for the sign-up link and more information.

The clothing ministry is in urgent need of adult winter coats, all sizes, new or used! Please also note that we are now accepting clothing donations for fall and winter only; please hold all summer donations at this time. We are grateful for your continued support that allows us to help keep our neighbors warm!

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 \$741.36.

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 • October 22–29

Sunday, October 22

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ballots available (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 3:00 Fall Festival (Optimist Farm)

Monday, October 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

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

Wednesday, October 25

- 1:00 WMU Circle #7 (parlor)
- 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, October 26

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

Sunday, October 29

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ballots available (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Youth choir lunch and rehearsal (301/310)
- 12:45 Youth handbell rehearsal (302)
- 2:00 CROP Walk registration (parking lot)
- 3:00 CROP Walk