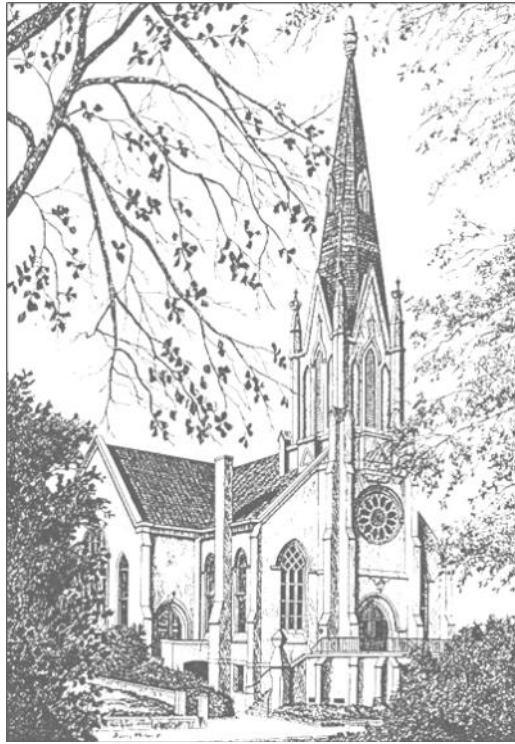


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



October 29, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 29, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Throughout the summer in the readings from the Hebrew Bible, we have followed the Israelites from the calling of the patriarchs and bondage in Egypt all the way to the journey through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. With today's reading from Deuteronomy, this journey is about to come to end, but Moses, who has led the people out, will not enter that land. We learn from the entire story — lessons about the nature of faith as an ongoing journey, the fickle character of human beings, and the persevering love of God. Today we learn from Moses what it means not to be able to finish some things we start. We sing songs of praise to the God who stays with us through it all; we lift up prayers for the world, especially those in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine in this time of war; and we begin our annual stewardship emphasis with a reminder of our calling to respond to God's gracious gifts with generosity toward others.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

"There Is a Spirit That Delights To Do No Evil" Maureen Howell  
Ned Rorem (from *A Quaker Reader*)

The Call to Worship

Psalm 90:1-2

LEADER: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

PEOPLE: **In you, we come home— to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved. We dwell in you.**

LEADER: Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world, from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.

PEOPLE: **In you, we are home— we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice. We dwell in you.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 78

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Sam Carothers

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, <sup>3</sup>the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” <sup>5</sup>Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. <sup>6</sup>He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. <sup>7</sup>Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. <sup>8</sup>The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

<sup>9</sup>Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup>Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. <sup>11</sup>He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, <sup>12</sup>and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup>You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Stop By, Lord”  
Doris Wesley Bettis

Youth Choir  
solos: Claire Carothers  
and Charlotte Phillips  
Will Mercer, bass

Stop by Lord, stop by. Stop by Lord, stop by.  
Somebody needs one touch from you, Lord,  
Oh stop by Lord, stop by.  
I need thee, Jesus, I need thee;  
stop by Lord, stop by. Stop by Lord, stop by.  
I've got problems that I can't solve.  
Stop by Lord, stop by. Stop by Lord, stop by.

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 Hymn of Devotion, 597

BRIDEGROOM

“Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels”

The Gospel

Matthew 22:34–46

<sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup>‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? <sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Love Is Little”  
Kevin Siegfried, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Love is little, love is low,  
love will make my spirit grow.  
Grow in peace, grow in light,  
love will do the thing that’s right.

South Union Shaker Village,  
Auburn, Kentucky, 1834

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman  
“Sometimes It’s OK Not To Finish What We Start”

### 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, 634

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

The Word from the Stewardship Committee

Kimberly Taylor

### 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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”  
Edwin T. Childs

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Margaret Clary. A 46-year member of First Baptist, Margaret serves on the Properties Committee and is the Meals on Wheels coordinator. She is co-leader of the Prayer Shawl Ministry and is a member of the Everette Miller Friendship class. She has two sons, Mark and Greg, and six grandchildren.

The sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Jim Clary by Margaret, Greg and Julie, Mark and Amy, and his grandchildren.

Sympathy to the family of Peggy Frisbie, who died on Wednesday, October 25.

Deacon elections end today at noon. You may submit your ballot in the ballot box in the church office. Address questions to any of the current deacons. Please prayerfully consider your choices for our deacon leadership.

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](mailto:tonyacarter5@gmail.com)) and/or Lou Anne and John Liverman ([louanne.live@gmail.com](mailto:louanne.live@gmail.com)).

*Giving Generously with Gratitude*, our 2024 stewardship emphasis, is taken from Paul's second letter to Corinthians 9:7 "Each of [us] should give what [we] have decided in [our] hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, November 1; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, Dr. Charles Kimball, the former Director of the Middle East Office of the National Council of Churches (1983-1990), and the former Chair of the Department of Religion at Wake Forest University (1996-2004), will speak on the context of current warfare in Israel and Gaza.

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 on November 1 is: Sloppy Joes with fries, apple sauce, and mixed veggies; non-meat option: vegan Sloppy Joes.

Daylight Saving Time ends next Saturday night (November 4/5). Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed!

The City of Oaks Marathon is next Sunday, November 5, but should cause little or no difficulty for travel to FBC that morning. All downtown streets will reopen by 8:30am. Some street closures in West Raleigh and the Crabtree Valley area may hinder travel in those areas prior to 9:30am and some even after worship. For a course map and information, visit [www.cityofoaksmarathon.com](http://www.cityofoaksmarathon.com).

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. We are also in need of teen gifts for girls and boys. Go to our Amazon wish list ([https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/O1BJTM2DUAMQ?ref=cm\\_sw\\_sm\\_r\\_un\\_un\\_uBS78UdXfygB0](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/O1BJTM2DUAMQ?ref=cm_sw_sm_r_un_un_uBS78UdXfygB0)) for ideas. Balls, gym bags, crafts kits for older girls, wallets, wireless earbuds are all great ideas for teens, or you can write a check and put "Toy Joy" in the memo line. We can shop for you.

Honoring our veterans: The church maintains a list of members who are military service veterans and those on active duty having connections to First Baptist. If you know of eligible individuals whose names have not previously been on these lists, please contact Jennie Herrick ([jherrick@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:jherrick@fbcraleigh.org) or 919-832-4485).

Volunteers are needed to help give out hot chocolate and biscuits at the Christmas parade on Saturday, November 18, from 9am–12pm. Email Leah ([lreed@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:lreed@fbcraleigh.org)) if you're available to be on the crew!

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 29–November 5

### 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

### Monday, October 30

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

### Tuesday, October 31

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

### Wednesday, November 1

- 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, November 2

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

### Sunday, November 5

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/All Saints Day/Communion (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 4:00 Youth handbell rehearsal (302)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)