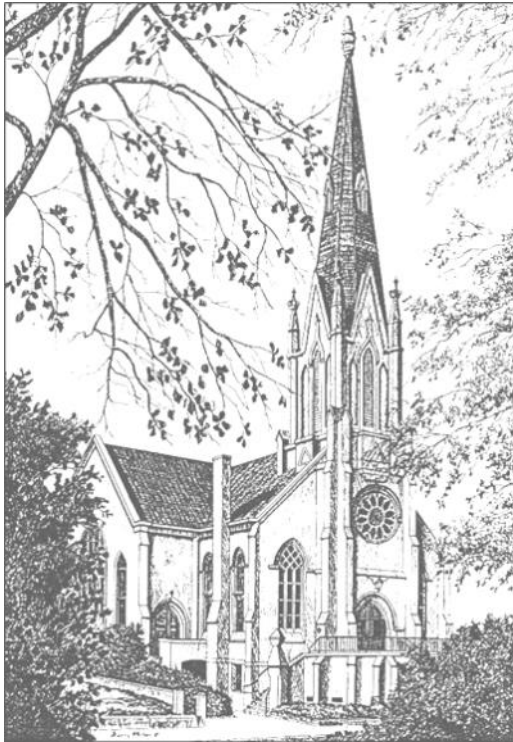


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



October 8, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: After hearing words of welcome, we are called to an awareness of God's presence by the Trinity Chimes and given space to center our hearts and minds by the prelude. Then, a creative interpretive reading of Psalm 19 calls us to worship. We sing hymns of praise, offer prayers of thanks for the many ways God speaks to us and for us, and listen for God's voice speaking to us today. The sermon explores the parable of the wicked tenants which requires interpretation but offers helpful words for our time. Far from being an anti-Semitic trope, as it has been misconstrued, the parable offers a challenge to faithfulness and a warning about complacency.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

"Andante" (from *Sonata in E Minor*)  
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Kelly Nivison, flute

The Call to Worship

"The Love that Moves the Stars"  
(Psalm 19)  
Jim Cotter

*At the sound of the bell's chimes: the congregation responds:*

**Praise to the Love that moves the stars,  
and stirs in the depths of our hearts.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 20

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

ODE TO JOY

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Cindy DeFoor

<sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

<sup>18</sup>When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, <sup>19</sup>and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." <sup>20</sup>Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:  
<sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Rejoice in God”

Sanctuary Choir

Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672)

Rejoice in God all people,  
your hearts and voices raising.  
with glad new songs, rejoicing come,  
God's wondrous mercy praising.  
Sing unto God with psaltery,  
let harps and strings accompany  
your hymns of praise and honor

The word of God is always true,  
and we may trust it ever.  
What God has promised, God will do,  
for love will fail us never.  
We sing of truth and righteousness,  
the earth which God did make and bless  
is full of love and goodness.

Our soul now waits for you, O God,  
our help and our protection.  
Our heart rejoices in your word,  
we trust in your direction.  
Your mercy, God, upon us be  
according as we hope in thee.  
You are our mighty refuge.

Words: Cornelius Becker (1561-1604),  
trans. E. Sperling; Nancy Grundahl, ed.

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 Congregational Response

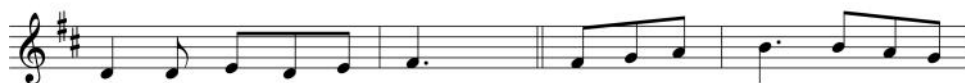
“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”



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.

Words: Desmond Tutu, c. 1994  
Music: John L. Bell, 1996

<sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ <sup>41</sup>They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’ <sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 384 “This Is My Father’s World”

TERRA BEATA

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Seeking a Better Understanding of What Jesus Is Saying”

## 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 “We Are Called To Be God’s People”

HYFRYDOL

**We are called to be God's people,  
Showing by our lives His grace;  
One in heart and one in spirit,  
Sign of hope for all the race.  
Let us show how He has changed us  
And remade us as His own.  
Let us share our life together,  
As we shall around His throne.**

**We are called to be God's servants,  
Working in His world today.  
Taking His own task upon us,  
All His sacred words obey.  
Let us rise then to His summons,  
Dedicate to Him our all,  
That we may be faithful servants,  
Quick to answer now His call.**

**We are called to be God's prophets,  
Speaking for the truth and right;  
Standing firm for godly justice,  
Bringing evil into light.  
Let us seek the courage needed,  
Our high calling to fulfill;  
That we all may know the blessing  
Of the doing of God's will.**

Words: Thomas A. Jackson, 1973, alt.  
Music: Rowland H. Prichard,, 1931, alt.



## 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

“Psalm 19”

Maureen Howell

Benedetto Marcello (1686–1739)

\*The congregation may stand.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Rejoice in God*, Music: Heinrich Schütz; Words: Psalm 33, para. Cornelius Becker, 1561-1604, Nancy Grundahl, ed. © 2004, Augsburg Fortress; *Goodness is Stronger Than Evil*, Text: Desmond Tutu; Music © 1996 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). *We Are Called to Be God’s People*, Text: Thomas A. Jackson © 1973, Renewed 2001 Broadman Press (SESAC) (admin. LifeWay Worship).

“The Love that Moves the Stars” (Psalm 19) is from *Psalms for a Pilgrim People*, Jim Cotter © 1998 Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg PA.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Deacon on Call is Cindy DeFoor. A 16-year member, Cindy is a member of the Everett Miller Friendship Sunday School class and the Infant-Toddler Board. She and her husband David live in Garner.

The Wilmoth family are our acolytes today.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Marianne Webb by her husband, Joe Webb, and family.

Deacon elections continue through the month, 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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, October 11; meal served at 5:15pm, program and meeting at 6:15pm. Carolyn Dickens will speak about our capital city, the Capitol Building and the historical events that happened there, and our church's connection to it all.

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 supper for October 11 is a taco bar.

Please keep the 15 people returning today from the middle school retreat to Camp Caraway in your prayers.

Dr. Chapman will be out of the office this week from Monday, October 9 through Sunday, October 15. Leah Reed will be preaching in his absence.

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*.

The next donation day for used items for Toy Joy is October 15, 12–3pm, in the fellowship hall. Please note: this day is the only date we can accept and process used donations (you may bring new donations at any time).

Mark your calendar now for the Fall Festival, which will be held at Optimist Farm (2908 Optimist Farm Road in Apex) on Sunday, October 22, from 3–7pm. The cost is \$10 per ticket, with a cap of \$40 per family. Watch for more details to come.

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 \$591.36.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to mission work with ties to our church. So far, we have received \$3,957.

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 8–15

### Sunday, October 8

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:00 JBC Sunday School and worship (Lake Crabtree)
- 11:00 Worship/deacon ballots available (sanctuary & YouTube)  
First grade worship prep class (231)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

### Monday, October 9

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

### Tuesday, October 10

- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga class (319)

### Wednesday, October 11

- 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, October 12

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

### Sunday, October 15

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC-JBC Worship/Leah Reed preaching/deacon ballots  
available (sanctuary & YouTube)  
First grade worship prep class (231)
- 12:00 Toy Joy collection (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)