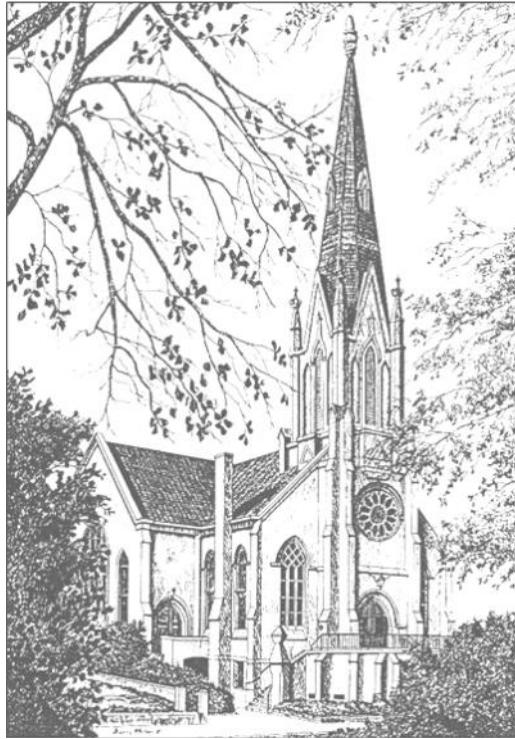


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 12, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: The reading from Matthew today is the first of three parables we will consider, all of which deal with judgment in some way. This one has more of an apocalyptic tone, making it less accessible to most of us, but apocalypticism points to a kind of hope we still need, one based not on human effort but on Divine possibility. So, we consider that possibility, we pray for our ability to retain hope in challenging times, and we sing praises to the God who is always able to do more than we can imagine. We also hear another word about stewardship, challenging us to participate fully in God's realm.

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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

"Voluntary on KREMSER"  
Craig Phillips

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 78

LEADER: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

PEOPLE: **I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

LEADER: things that we have heard and known,

PEOPLE: **that our ancestors have told us.**

LEADER: We will not hide them from their children;

PEOPLE: **we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord.**

LEADER: God established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,

PEOPLE: **which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;**

LEADER: that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

PEOPLE: **so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep the commandments.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 377

KREMSER

“We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer”

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Carolyn Dickens

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3</sup>Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

<sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup>But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup>And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” <sup>23</sup>He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup>The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” <sup>25</sup>So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

"This Little Light of Mine"  
Lauren Dunseath, cello

LATTIMER

1. This lit-tle light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm going to let it

shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

- 2. Ev'rywhere I go...
- 3. All through the night...

Traditional Negro Spiritual  
Ken Berg, arr.

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, 279      "My Lord! What a Morning"

BURLEIGH

The Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

<sup>1</sup>"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Cantique”

Sanctuary Choir

Gabriel Fauré (Op. 11)

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation,  
Eternal Light of the earth and sky, On this, thy holy day,  
We kneel in adoration; O Savior turn on us thy loving eye.  
Send down on us the fire of thy grace all-consuming,  
whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,  
and rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all illumining,  
that they may waken thy mercy to tell.  
O Christ, bestow thy blessing unto us, we implore thee,  
who here are gathered on penitent knee.  
Accept the hymns we chant to tine eternal glory,  
and these, thy gifts we return unto thee.

Text: Jean Racine, 1688; Harold Heiberg, tr., 1952

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Our Belief in God’s Ability To Set Things Right”

### 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, 539

HOUSTON

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

The Word from the Stewardship Committee

Caleb Carter

## 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

“Finale in D Minor”

Maureen Howell

Eric H. Thiman

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Carolyn Dickens. A 46-year member, Carolyn serves as the church archivist and as the president of the Thirty-Niners and is on their Program Committee. She is a trustee, a wedding director, and a member of the Adult Ministries Council, the Pathfinders Sunday School class, and the Sanctuary Choir. Carolyn and her husband Kent have two married children and four grandchildren.

Our acolytes today are Camden, Charlotte, Margie, and Wade Sasser.

The pulpit flowers are given by Mary Carol and Dan Day in gratitude for all the years the people of this church cared for and supported them as pastor and wife, and in appreciation for the continuing quality of witness to Christ offered by you and your ministerial leaders.

Sympathy to Ralph Cavin on the November 8 death of his wife Gwen.

*Giving Generously with Gratitude*, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 48 pledges in the amount of \$469,150. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church. If you didn’t receive a stewardship packet, please contact the church office.

Church conference: Wednesday, November 15; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. See the *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 on November 15 is: Early Thanksgiving! Turkey or mock turkey with gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans, and cranberry sauce; kids: mac-n-cheese.

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!

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, we want to provide an opportunity for our congregation to serve our neighbors a hot meal from *And Also With 'Cue*. We will be serving it to the clients of Oak City Cares (November 26) and the Helen Wright Center (December 12). See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information and the sign-up link.

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 6pm, followed by a reception. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of holiday decorations for our sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Friday, December 1.

Come celebrate expectant parents Sara and Michael Hood at a baby shower on Sunday, December 10, from 2–4pm in the fellowship hall. The Hoods are registered at [babylist.com](http://babylist.com) and [Target](http://Target.com).

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)).

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 \$1,341.36.

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.





HONORING VETERANS AND  
THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE  
— VETERANS DAY, 2023 —

*November 11 is Veterans Day, a day we remember and honor Veterans for their military service. Their courage and sacrifice over the years has been responsible for guaranteeing the freedom of our great country. On this day, we also wish to recognize those members from families of First Baptist Church who are currently serving in the military forces of the United States. We are grateful for their service and the sacrifices being made by each of them and their families.*

**Chaplain (Major) Michael (Mike) Johnson**

1122 E. 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Shreveport, LA 71106-2447  
Aunt: Carol Rockey

**PFC Brooks Parker**

Army National Guard  
146 Croyden Drive  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
Grandparents: Charles and Grace Parker

**CAPT Camille C. (Runyans) Fullam**

US Army Aviation  
23 London Drive  
Fort Bragg, NC 28307  
Parents: Robert and Pam Runyans

**LTC Robert W. Runyans**

Judge Advocate General's Corps  
US Army Garrison Humphreys (South Korea)  
PSC 400, Box 1978  
APO AP 96273  
Parents: Robert and Pam Runyans

**First Lieutenant Julia R. Stewart**

United States Marine Corps  
Grandmother: Rae Moorhead  
Aunt: Cindy DeFoor

## **VETERANS**

**LaCount Anderson**  
US Navy, 1971–1976

**Carl Bailey**  
US Army, 1969–1971

**Max Baldwin**  
US Coast Guard, 1953–1957

**Charles Barham**  
US Navy, 1955–1958

**Chip Barnes**  
US Navy, 1991–2015

**John Bennett**  
US Navy, 1978–1999

**Albert Calloway**  
US Army, 1950–1952

**Don Cheek**  
US Army Air Corp, 1944–1946

**Connie Cole**  
US Army, 1980–1994

**Michael Cooke**  
US Army, 1968–1971

**Frederick Russell Cox**  
US Army, 1953–1955

**Jud DeBra**  
US Army, 1965–1968

**Mike Dodd**  
US Army, 1977–1980

**Dennis Ellis**  
US Marine Corps, 1978–1983

**Hal L. English**  
US Army, 1954–1956

**Marshall Evans**  
US Army 1951–1953

**Dennis Francis**  
US Navy, 1984–1992

**Jim Good**  
US Army, 1957–1963

**Chet Goolsby**  
US Air Force, 1969–1973

**Rance Henderson**  
US Navy, 1951–1956

**Julian W. Hughes, Jr.**  
US Army, 1954–1956

**Art Jackson**  
US Army Corps of Engineers, 1969–1971

**Bill Jacobs**  
US Navy, 1955–1959; 1960–1964

**Max O. Johnson**  
Army National Guard of NC, 1962–1968

**Bob Kimball**  
US Air Force, 1971–1977

**Don Kline**  
US Army Corps of Engineers, 1953–1955

**Bill Loomis**  
Army National Guard, 1970–1976

**Bob Matthews**  
US Navy, Medical Officer 1982-2019

**Al Moore**  
US Navy, 1959–1963

**Charles Parker**  
US Navy, 1954–1962

**Brandon Peach**  
US Army, 2005–2008

**Mike Peach**  
US Army, 1973–1976

**Frank Powers**  
US Army Reserves, 1967–1973

**Linville Roach**  
US Navy JAG, 1955–1959

**Daniel O. Roberts**  
USNR, 1953–1961

**Francis Rockey**  
US Navy, 1955–1966

**Johnny Shaver**  
US Army, 1954–1956

**John Smith**  
US Army, 1969, 1972

**Jerry Washington**  
US Army, 1970–1972

**Charles D. White**  
US Army, 1951–1953

*November 12, 2023*

## Calendar Highlights • November 12–19

### Sunday, November 12

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacon's meeting (220/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

### Monday, November 13

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meetingn (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

### Tuesday, November 14

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

### Wednesday, November 15

- 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 16

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

### Saturday, November 18

- 9:00 Christmas parade/hot chocolate and biscuit give-away  
(parking lot)
- 10:00 Memorial service for Gwen Cavin (The Cypress clubhouse ballroom,  
8801 Cypress Lakes Drive, Raleigh, 27615); reception following

### Sunday, November 19

- 9:00 Buddy Breakfast (301/302)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)