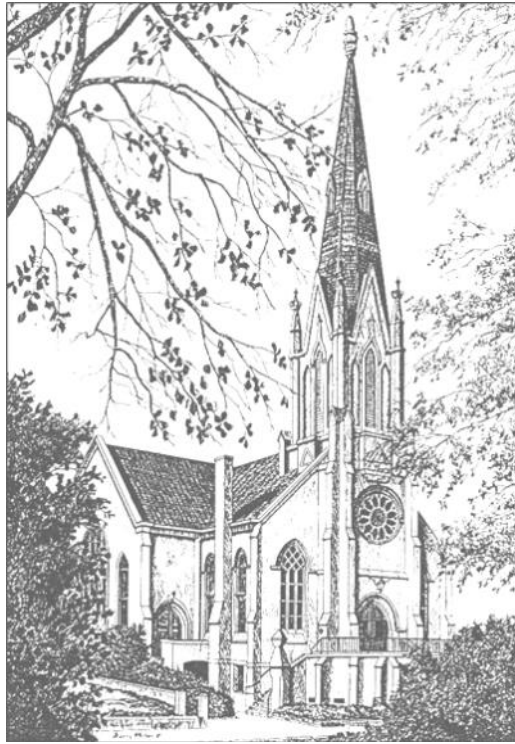


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

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.

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

¹Then 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. ²And 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. ³Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴“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. ¹⁵Now 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.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for 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; ¹⁸and 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.”

¹⁹But 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. ²⁰If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” ²¹And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” ²²Then 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.” ²³He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” ²⁴The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵So 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.**

¹³But 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore 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

¹"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But 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.' ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep 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), by email (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) 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 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) and/or Lou Anne and John Liverman (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. 70th 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)