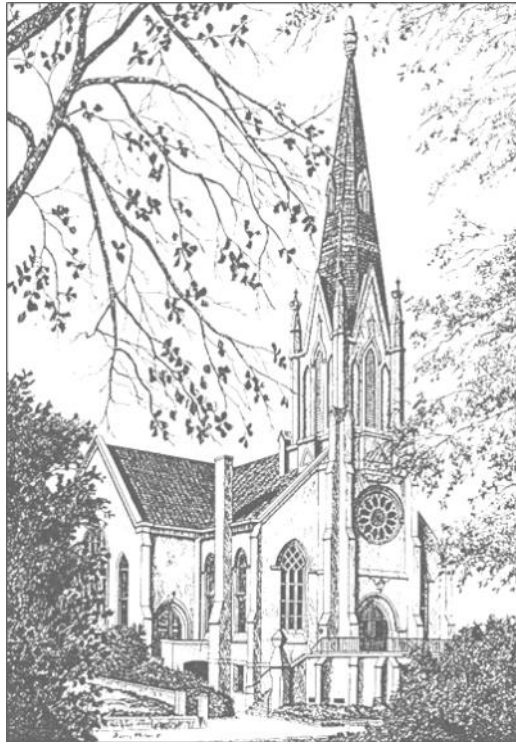


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 19, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: We consider today the second of three parables recorded in Matthew 25, the parable of the talents. Each of these parables is about the kingdom of heaven or the realm of God. In this parable, Jesus talks about our calling to be faithful stewards of all God entrusts to our care. Though a concept familiar to anyone who has spent time in any church, it is a teaching that goes against the grain of our culture. As we reflect on this calling, we are led in music by some of our greatest resources, our children and youth. We conclude our stewardship emphasis with a final word of challenge and an opportunity to place our commitments in the offering plates as they are passed. And we renew our efforts to do all that we can with what we have, all of which comes to us as a gift from God.

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 Call to Worship

based on Psalm 123

LEADER: Come, let us wake up to the presence of the Lord.

PEOPLE: To you, O God of love and light, we lift our eyes.

LEADER: We look to the Lord our God who has mercy upon us.

PEOPLE: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Invocation

The Introit

“Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord” Elementary Choir
Vicki Hancock Wright

When the first sunrise awoke all creation,
God smiled and declared, “This is good.”
Sun bringing brightness, light spilling from heavens,
God’s love touching all that it could.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Feel God’s love shining in us, around us, and through us,

When you feel someone who seems sad and lonely,
and needing a friend just like you.

God gives you guidance to light up the darkness;
God’s love touching others through you.

Orff instruments:

Ginger Graves

Rhonda Lowe

Hollis Yelverton

“We Are Walking in the Light of God”

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings. The lyrics are: "We are walk - ing* in the light of God, we are walk-ing in the light of God. We are walk - ing in the light of God, we are walk-ing in the light of God. We are walk - ing, Oo, we are walk-ing in the light of God. We are walk - ing, Oo, we are walk-ing in the light of God." The asterisk in the first line indicates a singing/praying instruction.

*singing/praying

Words and Music: Traditional Zulu (South African)
Anders Nyberg, adapt. and arr., 1984

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Judges 4:1-7

Maria Childrey

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. ²So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

“Family/Família”

Elementary/Youth Choirs

Mark Burrows

Rhonda Lowe, dir.

In your eyes I see peace, in your song I hear hope,
In your heart I feel love. We are more than neighbors, we are family.

En tus ojos paz, en tu voz esperanza, en tu corazón amor.
Somos más que vecinos, somos familia.

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world;
Every nation, every race, all are held in his embrace,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Words and music: Mark Burrows, quoting
C.H. Woolston, and George F. Root

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.**

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 568

HENDON

"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"An Inescapable Part of Christian Discipleship"

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, 374

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

“Now Thank We All Our God”

The Word from the Stewardship Committee

Janie and Claire Carothers

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Misty Morning”

Youth Choir

Carl J. Nygard, Jr.

It was a misty morning on the top of a hill
with all the trees below me standing quiet and still,
when in a distant voice I thought I heard someone say,
"It's just a misty morning thanking God for today."

In all the spiders' webs I saw the glistening haze,
and all the butterfly tents were dressed in silver glaze,
and in a distant voice I thought I heard someone say,
"It's just the morning's way of thanking God for today."

Misty morning of a greener dawn, your day is here!
Misty morning, I can hear your song,
The sound is quiet but the song is clear.

Another misty morning may awaken my hill,
and when it comes I hope I can remember still
how on this misty morning from a valley of gray,
I heard the voice of creation thanking God for today.

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt.

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

"Now Thank We All Our God"
Jeffrey Honoré

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Maria Childrey. Maria is a 41-year member of First Baptist and serves on the Properties Committee. She is also a member of the Sanctuary Choir and the Formations Sunday School class. Maria and her husband Tom have three daughters: Katie, Ann, and Caroline.

Our offering helper is Remi Phillips, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

Jerry Washington and Sheila Jordan are sponsoring the banner in memory of their parents, Calvin and Ruby Washington and Norman and Beverly Jordan, and in thanksgiving for their granddaughters, Olivia and Delia Haas.

Sympathy to the family of Mike Dodd, who died on November 15, and to the family of Charlie Suggs, who died November 11.

The church office will be closed November 22–24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Giving Generously with Gratitude, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 73 pledges in the amount of \$676,570. 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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, November 29; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. We will hear from a representative of the Alliance Medical Ministry that week.

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 for November 29 is: chicken and rice with a veggie medley; non-meat option: mock chicken and rice; kids: chicken nuggets.

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.

If you can make two or three dozen cookies for the Hanging of the Greens reception, please email Anne Cooke (cooke76@aol.com). The cookies need to be brought to the kitchen on Sunday morning, December 3.

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.



Calendar Highlights • November 19–26

Sunday, November 19

- 9:15 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)

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
Finance Committee meeting (conference room)
- 6:00 Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 22–Friday, November 24

Church office closed

Sunday, November 26

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 2:00 Oak City Cares service day (Oak City Cares, 1430 S. Wilmington St)
- 5:00 Youth choir pizza party (choir room)