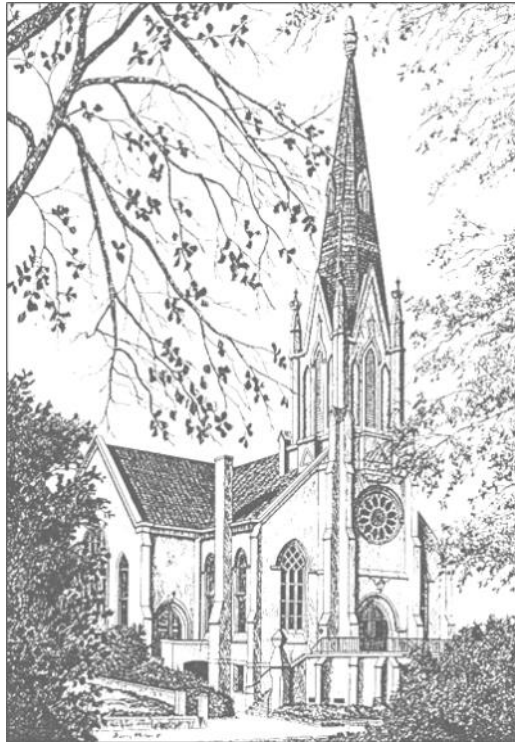


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 26, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 26, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday in the Christian year, the day we celebrate the sovereignty of Christ over all human history, indeed all creation. It is also Thanksgiving weekend which creates no tension or conflict since there is nothing for which we are more grateful than Christ's sovereignty in our lives and world. In this year of the lectionary, we end with the familiar parable about sheep and goats. It is so familiar that we may wonder what new ground we could possibly explore. But this a Jesus parable about what is most important in life and faith, and like many such parables, the challenge lies more in following its teaching than in trying to discern its meaning. We ponder that challenge today, as we pray for our movement toward the beloved community and sing praise to the God who makes that community possible in Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

"Jesus Shall Reign"  
David Cherwien

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

Psalm 100

LEADER: Make a joyful noise, to the Lord, all the earth.

PEOPLE: **Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

LEADER: Know that the Lord is God.

PEOPLE: **It is God who has made us, to whom we belong; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

LEADER: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

PEOPLE: **Give thanks and bless God's name.**

LEADER: For the Lord is good;

PEOPLE: **God's steadfast love endures forever, God's faithfulness to all generations.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 745

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Myra Brickell

<sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**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 Anthem

“Praise Ye the Lord”

John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

Tom Childrey, solo

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his holiness:  
praise him in the firmament of his power.  
Praise him in his noble acts:  
praise him according to his excellent greatness.  
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet:  
praise him upon the lute and harp.  
Praise him in the cymbals and dances:  
praise him upon the strings and pipe.  
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals:  
praise him upon the loud cymbals.  
Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord.

Psalm 150

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 381

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Some Stories We Have To Be Able To Preach”





The Deacon on Call is Myra Brickell. A 36-year member, Myra serves as chair and council rep of the Worship Committee and as a Director for the Preschool Division of Sunday School. She is a member of the Pathfinders Class and the Sanctuary Choir. She is also treasurer for the Thirty-Niners and is an office volunteer. Myra and her husband Sterling have one daughter, Jessica Helms, and two grandsons, Asher and Ryder.

Our acolytes today are Brooks and Brayden Joyce.

Today's banner is sponsored by Joe, Cece, Hannah, and Gordon Middleton and David Burris in loving memory of Allen and Jane Burris.

*Giving Generously with Gratitude*, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 99 pledges in the amount of \$880,130. 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. This week, we will hear from a representative of the Alliance Medical Ministry.

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 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.

Global Mission Emphasis — Next Sunday, December 3, we welcome Nell Green, recently retired CBF field personnel as our guest preacher. Nell and her husband have served in Senegal, Miami, Belgium, the Carolinas, and Houston for over 37 years.

Hanging of the Greens will be held next 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 this 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](mailto:cooke76@aol.com)). The cookies need to be brought to the kitchen on Sunday morning, December 3.

Theology on Tap's next gathering will be on Thursday, December 7, at 6pm at Clouds Brewing (126 N. West Street, Raleigh). Please join us!

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 \$1,366.36.

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 26–December 3

### 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)

### Monday, November 27

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

### Tuesday, November 28

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven board meeting (conference room)

### Wednesday, November 29

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Pre-K/K music/Elementary Choir missions
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Pre-K/K missions/Elementary Choir music  
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 6:45 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

### Thursday, November 30

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

### Saturday, December 2

- 10:00 Hanging of the Greens rehearsal (sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 3

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/Nell Green preaching, Global Missions emphasis  
(sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 6:00 Hanging of the Greens (sanctuary)
- 7:00 Hanging of the Greens reception (fellowship hall)