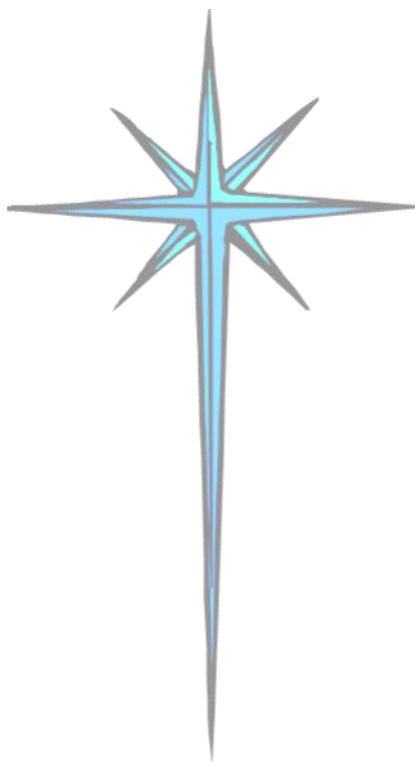


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 14, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPHANY

January 14, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. It is a season in which we celebrate God's revelation of light and love to the whole world and reflect upon our calling to share light and love. It is also the weekend our nation honors the life and Ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and considers the calling to continue his prophetic ministry of building the beloved community. The reading from 1 Samuel addresses both themes, as God calls a new leader, assuring the continuation of prophetic witness after a time when divine communication was limited. We search for such assurance today and pray for our ability to hear and embrace it. We sing praise to the God who continually calls us as individuals and as a community of faith.

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

Maureen Howell

"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"
Paul Manz

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: The one who calls you together this day yearns for all people to hear and be blessed.

PEOPLE: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

LEADER: Blessed is the One who comes bringing trustworthy words for the healing of the world.

PEOPLE: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 130 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Psalm (responsive)

John Smith

“God, All-knowing, Everywhere Present”

(Psalm 139, *selected verses*)

LEADER: O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

PEOPLE: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

LEADER: If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

PEOPLE: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

LEADER: How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.

PEOPLE: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Verses



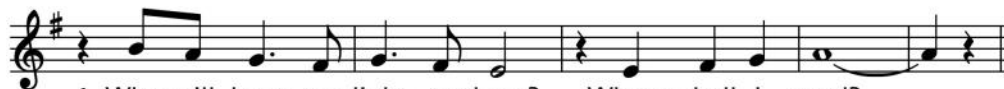
1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
2. break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
3. bread I will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

The Litany for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (responsive)

LEADER: We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King Jr. that “freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray for courage and determination for those who are oppressed.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s warning that “a negative peace which is the absence of tension” is less than “a positive peace which is the presence of justice.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s insight that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s lament that “the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church’s silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are.”

PEOPLE: **Therefore, let us pray that neither this congregation nor any congregation of Christ’s people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is God’s call to us.**

LEADER: We remember Dr. King’s hope that “dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”

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 Gospel

John 1:43–51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”

Sanctuary Choir

C.H.H. Parry/John Ferguson, arr.

He comes to us as one unknown,
A breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone,
Or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie
And thoughts of day depart;
Half seen upon the inward eye,
A falling star across the sky
Of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,
The ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze,
A wind that stirs the tops of trees,
A voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came
By flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame
A life, a death, a saving Name,
For ev'ry child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown;
Believed, obeyed, adored:
The Christ in all the scriptures shown,
As yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior and our Lord.

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Reading the Story from a Different Perspective”

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.

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

**Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.**

**Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

Text: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Tune: Wyeth’s Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

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

“Here I Am, Lord”

Maureen Howell

Janet Linker

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is John Smith. A 13-year member, John serves as the church moderator and deacon chair. He is a member of the Pathfinder's Class and is married to Harriet Smith.

Our acolytes today are Elizabeth Yelverton and Eller Collins.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Audrey and Tom Bray by their children, Angela and Tommy Bray.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 17; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week's program will be led by a representative from NeighborHealth Center, a faith-based healthcare clinic.

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). We ask that every person eating supper check in with the volunteer collection team before getting your meal, even if you have prepaid online. The menu on January 17 is: seafood pot pie, non-meat option: vegan pot pie; kids: fish sticks.

Mark your calendar for the following 2024 dates for church conference: January 31, February 28, April 24, May 22, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 20, and December 18.

The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 15, in observance of MLK Day.

The Habitat for Humanity Downtown Church Coalition is kicking off its annual build on January 15 with two different shifts — 8:15–3:30pm and 10:45–2:30pm at 4419 Dedication Drive. To register, please visit Habitat's website.

Sign up now for Salt Shakers! Email Jessica Helms (jessica.brickell.helms@gmail.com) by January 17 to be assigned to dinner groups which will meet on four dates throughout the year. This is a great way to get to know people at the church!

Theology on Tap will meet at Clouds Brewing (126 N. West Street) on Thursday, January 18, at 6pm. Please join us!

Giving Generously with Gratitude, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 144 pledges in the amount of \$1,188,250. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church.

If you used offering envelopes last year or have requested them for this year, you will find new sets on the first floor corridor leading to the clothing ministry. If you would like some but have not requested them, contact Wayne Hager (whager@fbcraleigh.org).

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. So far, we have received \$3,995.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation information about scheduled activities will be noted on a recorded greeting obtained by calling the office at 919-832-4485. Information will also be supplied to WRAL-TV (1st Baptist, Salisbury St), WTVD-TV (First Baptist Church-Salisbury St) and posted on our home page and on social media (Facebook, and Instagram).

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 • January 14–21

Sunday, January 14

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)

Monday, January 15 *MLK Day holiday*

- Church office and clothing ministry closed
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Tuesday, January 16

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Wednesday, January 17

- 1:00 WMU Circle #7 (parlor)
- 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, January 18

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Clouds Brewing)

Sunday, January 21

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

First Baptist Church

99 N Salisbury St ❖ Raleigh NC 27603

919-832-4485 ❖ www.fbcraleigh.org