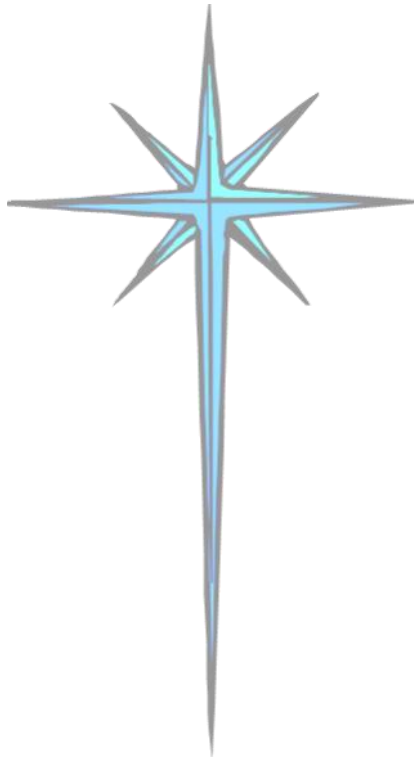


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 21, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPHANY

January 21, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: In this season of Epiphany in which we celebrate God's revelation of light and love to the whole world, we think first of Jesus' ministry which is beginning in the reading from Mark 1. But God's universal concern for all is seen throughout scripture, notably in the narrative of Jonah wherein a reluctant prophet is part of God's plan to extend mercy to the enemy, the people of Nineveh. It is a counternarrative in the Hebrew canon, a surprise for the faithful, but only one surprise among many in Jonah. The sermon reflects on these surprises as we sing praises to the God who surprises us with love and pray for a world that needs a few surprises of the right kind. We respond to our experience with God's light and love by offering our gifts and committing our lives to the way of Jesus.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

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

"Choral Prelude on LAUDA ANIMA"
Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

based on Psalm 62

LEADER: For God alone our souls wait in silence.

PEOPLE: **Our hope comes from God.**

LEADER: God is our rock and our salvation; we shall not be shaken.

PEOPLE: **On God, our refuge, do our souls rest.**

LEADER: Trust in God in all times, pour out your heart before the Lord.

PEOPLE: **For steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 25 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

ANDREWS

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

“My Soul Finds Rest”

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: "My soul finds rest, my soul finds rest, My soul finds rest, my soul finds my soul finds rest in God a - lone. rest, my soul finds rest in God a - lone." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words "My soul finds rest".

Words and music: Roy Hopp, 2014

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

“All Who Love You and Serve Your City”

**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

Mark 1:14–20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“I Will Arise and Go to Jesus”

Sanctuary Choir

Alice Parker/Robert Shaw, arr.

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!
Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Words: Anonymous, 19th c., and Robert Robinson, 1758

Music: RESTORATION, Southern Harmony, 1835

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Surprise, Surprise, Surprise”

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, 486

WELLESLEY

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“All Who Love and Serve your City”
Peter Pindar Stearns

Maureen Howell

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
And praise the Spirit evermore –
The Triune God, whom we adore.**

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551
Words: Thomas Ken, 1695 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

“Toccata on LAUDA ANIMA”
Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Matt Strickland. A 12-year member, Matt is a teacher for the High School (Grades 9–12) Sunday School class and a member of the Properties Committee. He and his wife Allison have two children, Alice and Hayes.

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

The sponsorship of the floral banner to benefit the Day Mission Fund is given by the Wade family to recognize the years of leadership by Nancy Phillips to some of our youngest missionaries, our Girls in Action.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 24; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week's program will be led by Dauline Singletary, director of Live Well Wake, a community-led initiative to find innovative solutions for our county's biggest challenges.

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 24 is: taco night; non-meat option: vegan tacos; kids: tacos.

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.

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 the church voice mail, on WRAL (1st Baptist, Salisbury St) and WTVD (First Baptist Church-Salisbury St), 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 21–28

Sunday, January 21

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 1:30 Youth girls basketball (at Trinity Baptist)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

Monday, January 22

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

Tuesday, January 23

- 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 board meeting (conference room)

Wednesday, January 24

- 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 25

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 Thirty-Niners brunch outing (Farmer's Market Restaurant)

Friday, January 26

- 7:00 Youth boys basketball (at Rolesville Baptist)

Sunday, January 28

- 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)