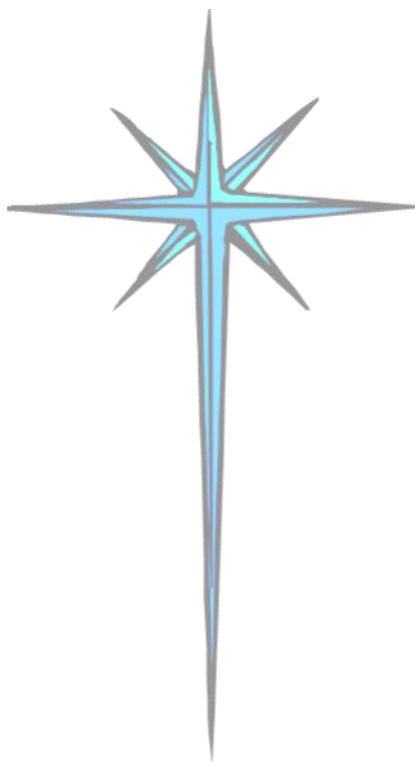


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 28, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPHANY

January 28, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we continue in this season of Epiphany, reflecting on God's revelation of light and love to the whole world, we consider the ways God has used specific messengers to convey Divine truth — “prophets,” we call them. In the reading from Deuteronomy, it is said that God will raise up more prophets like Moses. The sermon addresses questions raised by this claim — does God still call prophets, what is their function, how do we discern who is a true prophet and who is not? How ever we answer these questions, we trust that God does still speak to us, and thus we listen for God's voice — not just in the texts and sermon but through glorious music, times of spoken prayer and silence, the majestic beauty of our sanctuary, and the people who worship with us.

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

“Voluntary on LASST UNS ERFREUEN”
Wilbur Held

The Call to Worship (responsive)

based on Psalm 111

LEADER: People of God, give thanks! In the community of God's people,
let us give praise to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: **Great are the works of God, full of glory and majesty.**

LEADER: Our God is gracious and compassionate,

PEOPLE: **our God is merciful and forgiving,**

LEADER: our God is faithful and trustworthy,

PEOPLE: **our God is just and good.**

LEADER: So come, let's worship God together.

PEOPLE: **God's hallelujah lasts forever!**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 356

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 18:15–22

Anthony Petty

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." ²¹You may say to yourself, "How can we recognize a word that the Lord has not spoken?" ²²If a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord but the thing does not take place or prove true, it is a word that the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; do not be frightened by it.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

“Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil”

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than
hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;
life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is
ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are: "Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than". The second staff continues: "hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;". The third staff continues: "life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is". The fourth staff continues: "ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is". The fifth staff concludes: "ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us." The score ends with a double bar line.

Words: Desmond Tutu, c. 1994
Music: John L. Bell, 1996

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 Anthem

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

Sanctuary Choir

Irish Traditional/Alfred Fedak, arr. Beth McCollum, violin

*Spirit open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love in receiving and in giving.*

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought and word and deed, may my living bring you glory.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994

The Gospel

Mark 1:21–28

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story” HYFRYDOL

**I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,
how he left his home in glory for the cross of Calvary.
I was lost but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray,
threw his loving arms around me, drew me back into his way.
I was bruised but Jesus healed me, faint was I from many a fall;
sight was gone, and fears possessed me, but he freed me from them all.
Days of darkness still come o’er me; sorrow’s path I often tread,
but the Savior still is with me; by his hand I’m safely led.**

Words: Francis H. Rowley, 1886
Music: Roland H. Prichard, 1830

The Sermon “Questions About Prophets” Christopher Chapman

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, 669 CWM RHONDDA
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

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 “The Rejoicing” Maureen Howell
Charles Callahan

*The congregation may stand.

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The Call to Worship was written by Leah Reed.

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The Deacon on Call is Anthony Petty. A 45-year member, Anthony is a member of the Scriptural Serendipity class, the Personnel Committee, and the Dream Team. He and his wife Carolyn have two grown children, Allie and Tom.

The acolytes today are Asher and Chase Helms.

Today's banner is placed by the First Baptist Church staff in loving memory of our friend, Willard Mallette, of our facility staff who died January 5, 2024. Donations have been made to the Day Mission Fund.

Church conference: Wednesday, January 31, in person and via Zoom; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. 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). 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 31 is: pork tenderloin, sweet potatoes & veggies; non-meat option: vegetarian meatballs; kids: mac-n-cheese.

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.

Buy your tickets now for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper (February 13 at 5pm). Tickets must be purchased BEFORE the event, and you can do that by cash, check, credit card at the kiosk, or on our website (Vanco and PayPal). Look for more details in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Register now for the churchwide retreat in Black Mountain on April 19–21. Pricing and more details can be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Weekday Preschool is currently enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. Our classes are 9:30am–1:30pm each day with lunch and snacks provided, and we have up to 5 day options in all our classes. For more information, go to fbcraleigh.org/first-baptist-preschool-registration-payment-information.

Giving Generously with Gratitude, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 145 pledges in the amount of \$1,189,450. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church.

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 \$10,195.

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 28–February 4

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)

Monday, January 29

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 5:00 Deacons' meeting (302)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (Blue Room)

Tuesday, January 30

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

Wednesday, January 31

- 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, February 1

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

Friday, February 2

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

Sunday, February 4

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Youth choir lunch and rehearsal (301/choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)