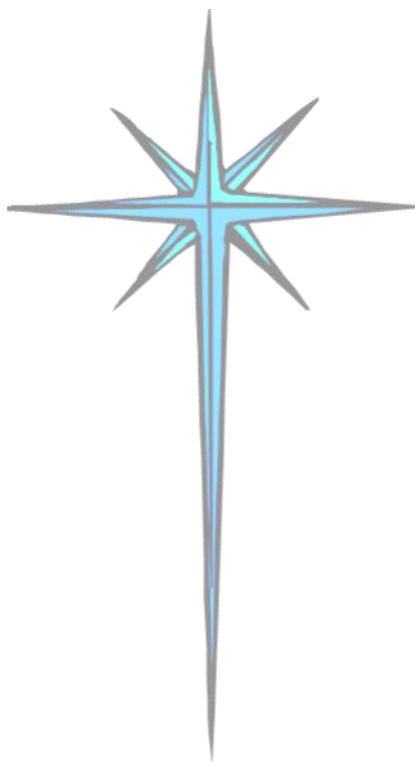


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 7, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 7, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Baptism of the Lord on the Christian calendar, part of an ancient tradition celebrating Christ's beginning which includes his birth, his baptism, and his first sign or miracle (changing water into wine at Cana, as recorded in John 2). The reading from Genesis 1 locates the new acts of creation God will bring about in the ministry of Jesus in the context of God's first act of creation. We sing praise to this God of new beginnings, and we pray for a world that needs new possibilities. The sermon explores the central text for today, the story of Jesus' baptism. Though familiar to us, it is a jarring story for its first readers, as a Messiah willingly chooses to embrace a humble ritual like everyone else. It is an early sign of what kind of Messiah he will be and thus what kind of calling we have in following him.

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

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"
Michael Cox, arr.

The Introit

Sanctuary Choir

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"
J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
you shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Words: Johann Rist, 1641
John Troutbeck, tr., 1885

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: God said, "Let there be light."

PEOPLE: **and there was light.**

LEADER: God's speech is God's action.

PEOPLE: **When God creates, the creation is good.**

LEADER: God our maker has done it again.

PEOPLE: **God has brought us to a new dawn.**

LEADER: Let us worship God.

*The Hymn of Praise, 362

"Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 1:1-5

Beth Yerxa

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

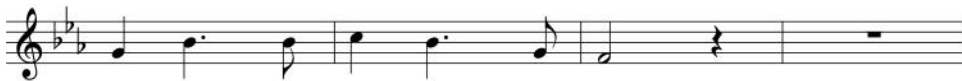
*The Hymn of Devotion

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

“Jesus, the Light of the World”



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.
2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.
4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,
Join the tri - umph of the skies.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



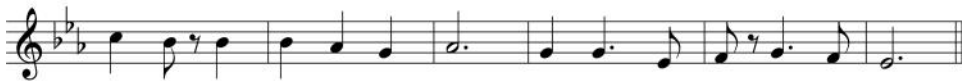
Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, and George Elderkin, 1890
Music: Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, arr., 2000

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

“Here’s a Pretty Little Baby”

Sanctuary Choir

Negro Spiritual/André Thomas, arr.

Dean Blakeley, solo

Here’s a pretty little baby! Look in the manger!
Behold, believe, and be baptized!
Wise men riding. Bright star shining. Name is Jesus.

The Gospel

Mark 1:4–11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“An Early Sign of Who Jesus Will Be and the Nature of Our Calling”

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, 115

ST. ELIZABETH

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

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

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Beth Yerxa. A 17-year member, Beth is a member of the Sharing Thoughts class. She and her husband, Ben, have three children: Mattie, Daniel and Anna.

The sanctuary banner is sponsored today by Harold and Judy Vick in memory of Laura Anne Vick. A gift to the Dan Day mission fund has been received.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the December 31 birth of Callum Burkette Hood, son of Michael and Sara Hood.

Sympathy to Betsy Neal on the December 30 death of her sister Mary Alice Ipock.

Please keep the 22 people on the winter retreat and ski trip in your prayers. They return today.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 10; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week's program will be led by Ann Rollins, executive director of the Poe Center for Health Education, who will discuss their work in health-science education.

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 on January 10 is: Korean BBQ; non-meat option: vegetarian BBQ; kids: meatballs.

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 142 pledges in the amount of \$1,177,750. 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 \$3,955.

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 7–14

Sunday, January 7

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

Monday, January 8

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

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

- 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 11

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

Sunday, January 14

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