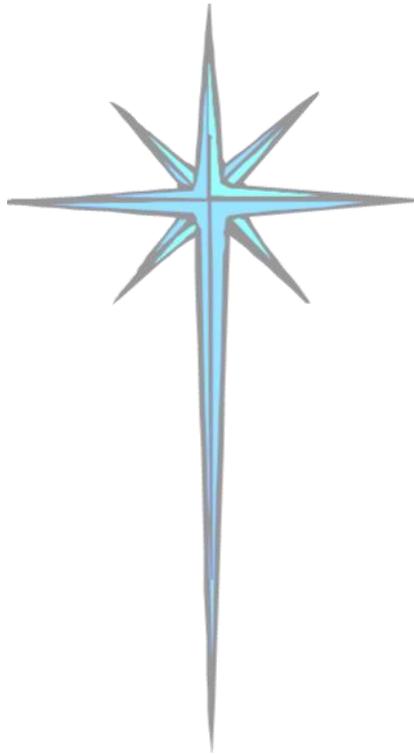


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 11, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 11, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Transfiguration Sunday, the day we remember three disciples witnessing Jesus' transformation on a mountain and a voice from heaven calling them to listen to Jesus. It is also the day we are ordaining deacons for the first time in four years, reclaiming a sacred ritual that is transforming for all involved. The interaction of these themes creates many opportunities for reflection as we think about leadership in the church. Transformation is needed, as is listening to Jesus. The reading from 2 Kings provides further insight, as this narrative about a transition in prophetic leadership offers encouragement for the church and its leaders. We give thanks for those willing to lead and sing praises to the God who provides leaders in every generation.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

"Air"

Jason Schodt

Herbert Howells

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 50

LEADER: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

PEOPLE: **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

LEADER: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before the Lord is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around.

PEOPLE: **God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, to judge the people:**

LEADER: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

PEOPLE: **The heavens declare God's righteousness, for the Lord is judge.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

2 Kings 2:1-12

Anne Bullard

¹Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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

Mark 9:2–9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

The Homily

Christopher Chapman

“A Word of Encouragement for the Church and Its Leaders”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Call to Commitment (responsive)

LEADER: These are the persons whom you have asked to be your deacons.
Do you have anything to say to them?

PEOPLE: **We want to say that we hold you and your office in the highest esteem. We did not take lightly our choice of you. We do not take lightly our desire to have you lead us with courage, conviction, and compassion.**

DEACONS: *We are honored and humbled by this display of your confidence in our capacity to be servants of this people. We pledge to you that we will be responsible bearers of this trust.*

PEOPLE: **We charge you to give unselfishly to the wellbeing of our church. Be interpreters of our ministry to one another, to this community, and to the world. Be prophets, call us back to the hard truth we would sometimes rather forget. Be pastors to us in our sickness and sorrow. Be friends to us in times of stress and indecision.**

DEACONS: *By the grace of God, with your support and encouragement, we will do our best.*

LEADER: Are you, the congregation, willing to give yourselves, in cooperation and in fellowship, to these persons and to all others who have special responsibilities in the church?

PEOPLE: **We will work together, as we work with God, in the most exciting mission in the world: the developing of Christian community.**

ALL: ***Then, may God bless the work we do together. Amen.***

The Invitation to the Ritual

The Presentation of the Ordinands

Crystal Bacon, Valerie Cumbea, Brenda Mullins, Caleb Petty,
Bobby Phillips, Elizabeth Riley, Brenda Snead

The Laying-on of Hands

(Any who wish to do so are invited to come forward and offer a brief sentence-prayer of blessing for each candidate.)

The Anthem

“Come By Here”

Sanctuary Choir

Negro Spiritual/Uzee Brown, Jr., arr.

Come by here, my Lord, come by here,
Someone needs you, Lord; someone’s praying,
Lord; someone’s crying, Lord.

The Ordination Prayer

John Smith

The Presentation of Certificates

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, 532

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

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

“Trumpet Fanfare on RESCUE”

Jason Schodt

Don Hustad

*The congregation may stand.

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Air*, Herbert Howells (Robin Wells, ed., © 1987 Novello & Co.); *Come By Here*, Negro Spiritual/Uzee Brown, Jr. arr. © GIA Publications, Inc.; *Be Thou My Vision*, Arr. © 1973 by Hope Publishing Company; *Trumpet Fanfare on RESCUE*, Don Hustad © 1978, Hope Publishing Company.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Call to Commitment is adapted from *The Worshiping Church*.

The Deacon on Call is Anne Bullard. A 38-year member of First Baptist, Anne serves as a co-teacher for The Journey class, She is a Homebound Ministry visitor, a *First Foundations* magazine contributor, and a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Anne and her husband Matt have two adult children, Catherine and Madison.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Annie Womble.

The acolytes today are Crosby and Daniel Rohrbaugh.

Thanks to Sue Crocker, Rhonda Lowe, Becky Mercer, and Cady Mercer for their musical reflections during our service and to Jason Schodt, our guest organist this morning.

Ash Wednesday is February 14: meal served at 5:15pm, service at 6:30pm.

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 x 202). 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 February 14 is: sloppy Joes with corn and green beans; non-meat option: vegan sloppy Joes.

Theology on Tap will gather on Thursday, February 15, at 6pm at Clouds Brewing (126 N. West Street). Please join us!

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

Volunteers are needed to help at the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion meeting which will be held May 20–22. Details can be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. If you are interested, contact Wayne Hager at whager@fbcraleigh.org.

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 146 pledges in the amount of \$1,191,750. 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 \$10,320.

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 • February 11–18

Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 Buddy mission project (children's suite)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ordination (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 6:00 Youth Superbowl watch party (Poteat home)

Monday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 13

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 5:00 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper (fellowship hall)

Wednesday, February 14

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:30 Ash Wednesday service (sanctuary)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, February 15

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Church Council (Zoom)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Clouds Brewing)

Friday, February 16

- 8:00 Youth boys basketball (at Trinity Baptist)

Sunday, February 18

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Lunch Bunch (232)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 1:30 Youth girls' basketball (Trinity Baptist)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 5:30 FBC 101 (301/302)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)