

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 18, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the First Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on the journey to the cross and the empty tomb. Thus, we wear purple stoles, include time for confession, and explore various themes related to sacrifice and service. But since these Sundays are “in” Lent and not “of” it, there is still space for praise and adoration, thanksgiving and devotion. The sermon explores the traditional Lent 1 story about Jesus’ temptations, noting that Mark’s version of this story is incredibly brief, leaving room for us to fill in the gaps and use our imagination. What happens when we do that? Where do we fit in to the story? Where and how are we tempted to be less than God has created us to be? And how might we make progress toward our true identity?

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”
J.S. Bach (from *Cantata 75*)

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 25

LEADER: Our journey begins with a covenant: a bow in the sky, full of beauty and wonder.

PEOPLE: A sign to remind us of God’s commitment to us.

LEADER: Our journey begins with affirmation: a dove in the sky, full of beauty and wonder.

PEOPLE: A sign to remind us whom we are called to follow.

LEADER: It is time for our journey to begin.

PEOPLE: God, grant us the courage to go, trusting in your promise and love.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 60

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Call to Confession

“To You, O Lord”
(based on Psalm 25:1–10)

Warren Howell

Refrain



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you. I lift my soul.

Verses

Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my savior. *Refrain*

For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander, gently leading the poor and the humble. *Refrain*

To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God’s word, who live God’s love, God will always be near, and will show them mercy. *Refrain*

Music by Marty Haugen, 1982

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise



We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to



God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for -



giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Music: Hal Hopson, 1995

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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 1:9–15

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."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”

Sanctuary Choir

Gary Matheny, arr.

Whatever God ordains is right; his will is ever holy.
I will obey his every word, and follow where he leads me.
He is my God, though dark my road, he leads me on the path of light.
To follow him is my delight.

Whatever God ordains is right; he never will deceive me;
He leads me by the proper path; I know he will not leave me.
I take, content, what he has sent, his hand can turn my griefs away.
And patiently I wait his day.

Whatever God ordains is right; here shall my stand be taken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet I am not forsaken;
My Father’s care is round me there; through evil that I cannot see,
I trust his hand to lead me.

Words: Samuel Rodigast, 1675

Music: Severus Gastorius, 1675

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Filling in the Gaps, Imagining Possibilities”

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, 641

ALL THE WAY

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”

Maureen Howell

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, 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

"Grand Choer"
Gordon Young

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Mary Powell Rhodes. A 46-year member, Mary Powell is chair and council rep of the Hospitality Committee and volunteers in the clothing ministry. She is also co-chair of the Prayer Circle via Email and a member of the Prayer Shawl Group, the Evening Bells, and Pathfinders Class. Mary Powell and her husband Bob have two grown children, Sarah Catherine Rhodes and J.D. Rhodes.

The sponsorship of the floral banner to benefit the Day Mission Fund is given by Bobby and Nancy Phillips in memory of their parents who loved, guided, and inspired them.

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

Centerpoint: Wednesday, February 21: meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. See this week's *Rose Window Weekly* for a description of the program.

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 21 is: chicken Marsala, broccoli, and mashed potatoes; non-meat option: mock chicken Marsala; kids: chicken nuggets.

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.

Register now for the CBFNC Annual Gathering, to be held on Thursday and Friday, March 14 and 15, at FBC Greensboro. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details and the registration link.

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

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 18–25

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 (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

Monday, February 19

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

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

- 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 (preschool and children's suites)
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, February 22

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Captain Stanley's Seafood)

Saturday, February 24

- 8:00 Youth girls basketball play-offs (at Trinity Baptist)

Sunday, February 25

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 RA race (fellowship hall)
- 1:30 Youth girls' basketball championship game (Trinity Baptist)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Music Ministries Council (choir loft)
Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)