

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 25, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we continue to follow Jesus on his journey to the cross on this Second Sunday in Lent, the Gospel reading underscores the human resistance to the central message of this season. Jesus predicts his suffering, death, and resurrection, and his closest followers refuse to hear anything about this kind of sacrificial love. Jesus then calls these same disciples to follow him in self-denial and cross-bearing. They want no part of it. Before we become too critical, we may want to consider how willing we are to embrace what Jesus is saying. As we do, we sing praise to God for all that is accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We offer prayers of confession for our struggle to understand fully who Jesus is and who he calls us to be. We give thanks for the gift of music and the choirs of different ages and different instruments who use it to inspire and challenge us today and every week.

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

"Appassionata"
Michael W. Joy

Evening Bells
Anna Anderson, dir.

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 22

LEADER: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

PEOPLE: in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

LEADER: You who fear the Lord, praise God!

PEOPLE: All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God; stand in awe!

LEADER: For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

PEOPLE: God did not hide from me, but heard when I cried out for help.

LEADER: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

PEOPLE: those who seek the Lord shall sing praise!

LEADER: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

PEOPLE: and all the families of the nations shall worship before God.

LEADER: For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

PEOPLE: To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down.

LEADER: Posterity will serve the Lord; future generations will be told about the Lord,

PEOPLE: and proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that God has done it.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 66

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

CONFESSIO AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

“Yesu Kwetu ni Rafiki”
 (“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”)
 Mark Burrows, arr.

Grade-school Choir
 Rhonda Lowe, piano

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
 Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Yesu kwetu ni rafiki. Maombi asikia.

(Swahili: Jesus is our friend. Take it in prayer.)

Words: Joseph M. Scriven, 1855
 Swahili trans., Anon.

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not been
sincere Christians.
We claim to follow Jesus
but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.
We profess to be disciples,
but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.
We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for sincere repentance
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

The Silent 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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Jason Gardner

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord”

Sanctuary Choir

Claude L. Bass

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he never shall suffer the righteous to fall, he is at thy right hand. Lord, for thy mercy is great, and far above the heavens. Let none be made ashamed that wait upon thee.

Psalms 55:22, 16:8

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 8:31–38

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but call
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but call
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but call
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but call
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't know And
 your name? Will you care for cruel and kind And
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ner free And
 your name? Will you quell the fear in - side And
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low you And



nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be shown,
 nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare
 nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean
 nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've found
 nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go



Will you let my name be known, Will you
 Should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
 And do such as this un - seen, And ad -
 To re - shape the world a - round, Through my
 Where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll



let my life be grown In you and you in me?
 let me an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 mit to what I mean In you and you in me?
 sight and touch and sound In you and you in me?
 move and live and grow In you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, 1987

Music: Scottish Melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987

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, 563

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”

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

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Maureen Howell

Chuck Marohnic

*The congregation may stand.

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Appassionata*, Michael W. Joy © 2014 Beckenhorst Press, Inc; *Yesu Kwetu ni Rafiki*, Mark Burrows, arr. © 2011, Choristers Guild; *We Are Forgiven*, © 1995, Hal Hopson; *Cast Thy Burdens Upon the Lord*, Claude L. Bass © 1961 Broadman Press; *Will You Come and Follow Me*, Text and Music arr, John L. Bell © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc); *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, Chuck Marohnic © 2010 Birnamwood Publications.

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 Deacon on Call is Jason Gardner. A nine-year member, Jason serves as the Sunday School Director and is on the Food Trailer Board. He is also a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. Jason and his wife Kati have two children, Kennedy and Eleanor.

The banner is sponsored today by Dr. Charles and Jamie Petty in gratitude for all FBC Mission Teams with a donation to the Day Mission Fund.

Our acolytes today are Meg and Luke Foster.

Please come cheer on your girls basketball team today, February 25, at 1:30pm at the Trinity Baptist Church gymnasium! After an undefeated regular season, the team received a bye for the first round of the basketball tournament, and will be competing in the championship game this afternoon. The game is comprised of high schoolers, middle schoolers, and a 5th grader! Let's go, FBC!

Church conference: Wednesday, February 28: meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. See this week's *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 x 202). Please be sure to check in with the volunteer collection team before getting your meal, even if you have prepaid online. The menu on February 28 is: vegetable pasta with cream sauce, spinach and mushrooms; kids: buttered noodles.

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 \$1,246,750. 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 \$10,322.

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 25–March 3

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)

Monday, February 26

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

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

Thursday, February 29

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

Sunday, March 3

- 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)