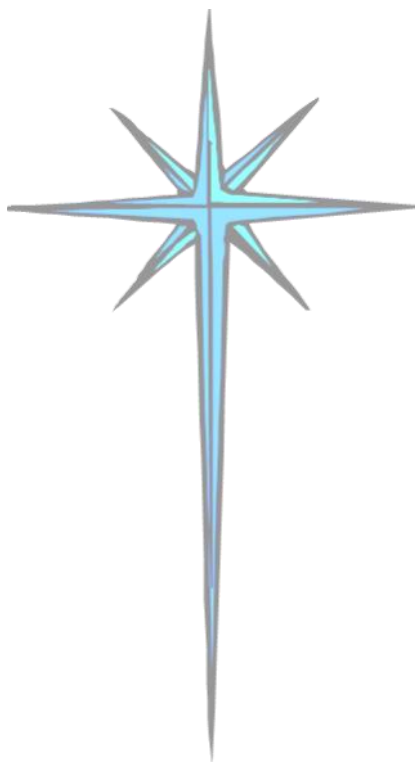


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 4, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPHIPHANY

February 4, 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 focus on Jesus' ministry, how he shares light and love, and what or who guides his acts of kindness. We follow in his pattern of making prayer a central part of our experience. We offer thanks for God's love through the sacred gift of music and with the help of devoted choirs of different ages. And we deepen our experience of love and commitment to share it through the celebration of communion.

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

"Prelude on ABBOT'S LEIGH"
Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 147

LEADER: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God.

PEOPLE: **For God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

LEADER: The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers the outcasts of Israel.

PEOPLE: **God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

LEADER: God determines the number of the stars, and gives to all of them their names.

PEOPLE: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; whose understanding is beyond measure.**

LEADER: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, but casts the wicked to the ground.

PEOPLE: **Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.**

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

The Introit

“Halle, Hallelujah”

Gradeschool Choir

Traditional Caribbean/John Michniewicz, arr.

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Oh God, the Rock of Ages cleft for me

Oh, let me, let me hide myself in thee

You are the Rock of Ages, cleft for me!

Words: Traditional and Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

*The Hymn of Praise, 108 “Come, Christians, Join To Sing”

MADRID

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 40:21-31

Robert Ponton

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

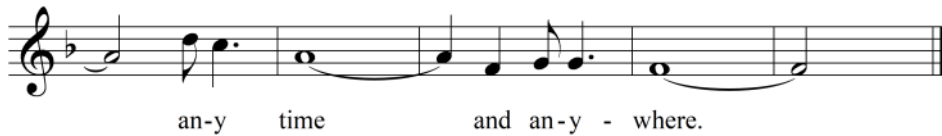
LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE



Words and Music: Traditional Negro Spiritual

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 1:29–39

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 611 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

BALM IN GILEAD

The Homily

“Who Sets the Agenda?”

Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Anthem

“In the Singing”

Sanctuary Choir

Carlton Young/John Helgen, arr.

In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in the Presence at this table,
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart’s cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people.

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

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, 715 (stanzas 1,3,5)

ABBOT'S LEIGH

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

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

"Voluntary on MADRID"

Maureen Howell

Matthew H. Corl

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Robert Ponton. A lifetime member of First Baptist, Robert serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and as a teacher for The Journey Sunday School class. He and his wife Jan have two grown and married children, Amy and Rob, and five grandchildren.

The pulpit banner today was commissioned by the Hager family and features Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager's two favorite flowers: magnolia and mountain laurel. The banner has been donated by the Hagers to FBC for use in the Artful Giving Ministry which benefits the Day Mission Fund. A donation has been made today by the Hager family in memory of Joy, whose birthday is today.

Sympathy to Carolyn Smith on the January 30 death of her sister, Diane Patterson Byers.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, February 7; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week we will view and discuss a documentary on the work of Civil Rights pioneer Ella Baker, a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s with North Carolina roots who studied at Shaw University in Raleigh.

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 February 7 is: Mexican casserole; non-meat option: vegan Mexican casserole; kids: taquitos.

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.

Buy your tickets now for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper (February 13 at 5pm). Tickets must be purchased by February 9, 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*.

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

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

Volunteers are needed to help at the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion meeting the weekend of May 22–25. 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 145 pledges in the amount of \$1,189,950. 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 4–11

Sunday, February 4

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 1:30 Youth girls' basketball (at Trinity Baptist)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

Monday, February 5

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

Tuesday, February 6

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 6:00 Properties Committee meeting (CR/Zoom)

Wednesday, February 7

- 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, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

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

Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 Buddy mission project (youth lounge or fellowship hall)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ordination (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)