

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 10, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Worship today, like most human experience, includes moments of joyful celebration and times for quiet reflection. The Grade-School Choir sings a joyful song of praise which fits the spirit of children while the time of confession creates space for us to examine our hearts and consider changes in our lives. The sacred ritual of baptism allows us to celebrate Azamat's faith decision and remember our own while the scripture passages point to the costly nature of God's love for us. The sermon explores one of the most concise descriptions of this love, found in John 3:16, which inspires both joy and deeper reflection. All of this is appropriate for Lenten worship, as we follow Jesus on the way to the cross and the empty tomb.

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

"Shall We Gather at the River"
Kurt Kaiser

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 107

LEADER: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good; whose steadfast love endures forever.

PEOPLE: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

LEADER: Let them thank the Lord for steadfast love, for wonderful works to humankind.

PEOPLE: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

The Introit

“Praise the Lord”

Grade-School Choir

Mark Patterson

Rhonda Lowe, dir.

Praise the Lord with songs of gladness.

Praise the Lord, come lift up your voice and sing.

Sing praise to the one who made the earth and sky and sea.

Give thanks for the wondrous things God gave you and me:

meadows and mountains and gently flowing streams,

fields ripe for the harvest and the glowing buds of spring.

Words: Mark Patterson

The Celebration of Baptism

Allaiarov Azamat Edgar ulý

The Prayer of Blessing and Commitment

*The Hymn of Praise, 72

“To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Prayer of Confession (responsive)

LEADER: God of saving grace,

PEOPLE: **We confess that we grow impatient walking through the wilderness. It seems so much is against us, and we keep asking, “Why?” In our trouble and our distress, we wonder where you are, O God. We claim to walk in the light, but the truth is, we love the darkness. There is so much we want to hide.**

LEADER: But God, who is rich in mercy, walks with us, guiding us to light.

[Silence]

God of steadfast love,

PEOPLE: **We confess that as the church, we have not loved our neighbors. We are called to love as you love the world, yet we find it easier to draw lines between “us” and “them.” We judge and condemn, close our eyes and turn our backs.**

LEADER: But God, who is rich in mercy, comes for us all, gathering all in redeeming love.

[Silence]

God of enduring hope,

PEOPLE: **We confess that it feels like the whole world is near the gates of death. Death from illness, tragedy, and injustice. Death from the poison of hate. Death from our trespasses and sins. Death of our hopes and dreams.**

LEADER: But God, who is rich in mercy, calls us to life, making us alive with Christ.

[Silence]

ALL: **Out of your great love for us, you make us alive again and again. Give us strength to walk with you. Deepen our love for you and your world. Draw us into your work of light and love and life. Amen.**

[Silence]

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.

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1995

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Numbers 21:4–9

Dennis Ellis

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**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

“Sing a New Song”
Heinrich Schütz

Sanctuary Choir
Cady and Will Mercer,
flute and bass

Sing a new song to God, the Lord, sing and give praise with one accord.
For His salvation he doth give, that through His mercy, we may live.
Worship the Lord in holiness, hymns of great joy to Him address.
Honor His works and bless His name, His grace and truth to all proclaim.
Heaven above and earth below, ocean and field His glory show.
All of God's creatures sing His praise, let us now too our voices raise.
Glory and thanks to Him belong, honor Him evermore in song,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

Words: based on Psalm 96

The Gospel

John 3:14–21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 539

HOUSTON

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman
“Just One Verse but One Well Worth Our Time”

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, 486

WELLESLEY

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

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

“In Joyful Praise”

Maureen Howell

Laurence Lyon

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Dennis Ellis. A 32-year member of First Baptist, Dennis is a member of the Finance Committee and is the president of Baptist Men. He teaches the Grade 6 Sunday School class and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Dennis and his wife Diane have four children and nine grandchildren.

Today's acolytes are Jason and Eleanor Gardner.

The pulpit banner is sponsored today by Mary Lou Dodd in loving memory of her husband, Mike Dodd, who died on November 15, 2023. He was a loving father to their son, Michael, and his wife Kathryn; their daughters Anna and Margaret; and grandfather to their grandchildren, James, Nate, Lola and Lizzie Dodd.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 13: meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. Our speaker for March is Dr. Alicia Myers, associate professor of New Testament and Greek at Campbell Divinity School. Dr. Myers is recognized among her peers as a leading authority on the Gospel of John. Her recent books include *Blessed Among Women? Mothers and Motherhood in the New Testament* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and *Reading John and 1, 2, 3 John* (Smyth & Helwys, 2019). The theme of her Bible study with us is Jesus' and John's use of Psalms in the Passion Narrative. This week's topic will be *Psalms and Betrayal: Righteous Suffering*; on March 20, it will be *Psalms and Jesus' Crucifixion: Lament and Revelation*.

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 March 13 is: Pasta Night! Ziti and spaghetti with Normandy veggie medley; kids: macaroni and cheese.

Sign up now for the Easter egg hunt, to be held on Saturday morning, March 23 on the Capitol grounds. Email Lynn Lingafelt (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org) by Wednesday, March 13. More details forthcoming.

Easter is March 31. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of Easter lilies for our sanctuary, with the remaining funds benefitting the Day Mission Fund. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or by following the link in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Wednesday, March 20.

The clothing ministry is in urgent need of men's shoes, especially tennis shoes sized 8.5 to 11; adult-sized backpacks; and kids' tennis shoes sized 10.5 toddler through size 5.

Due to the high use of the WiFi at the church, we have established a guest network: *FBC-MG*; password: "biography." You will need to sign in upon each use.

Mark your calendar for the following 2024 dates for church conference: 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.


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 \$10,497.

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.



 To facilitate your giving to FBC, use this QR code to link to the website for our main electronic giving, VANCO Faith, and the page that lists all our e-giving options and instructions.

Calendar Highlights • March 10–17

Sunday, March 10

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/baptism (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 GA Tea (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

Monday, March 11

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

Tuesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 13

- 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, March 14

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

Sunday, March 17

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC/JBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 12:00 Lunch Bunch (232)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Youth program (fellowship hall/Blue Room)