

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 3, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 3, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross and consider the implications of this journey for our lives. We continue to make time for confession, read texts that point to the cross, and sing hymns of praise to the God who is the author of this story. The sermon explores the reading from John 2 in which Jesus talks about his death and resurrection in a way the temple leaders fail to grasp. The story sheds light on who Jesus is and what the church should and should not do. We celebrate the centrality of the cross in our faith through the sacred ritual of communion, remembering Jesus' words about a body given and blood shed.

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

"Adagio (from Sonata 1)"
Felix Mendelssohn

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 19

LEADER: Heaven is declaring God's glory;
the sky is proclaiming God's handiwork.

PEOPLE: **One day gushes the news to the next,
and one night informs another what needs to be known.**

LEADER: There is no speech; there are no words;
their voices cannot be heard by us.

PEOPLE: **Yet their sound extends throughout the world;
their words reach the ends of the earth!**

READERS: *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.*

PEOPLE: **They are more desirable than gold, and sweeter than honey.
In keeping them is great reward.**

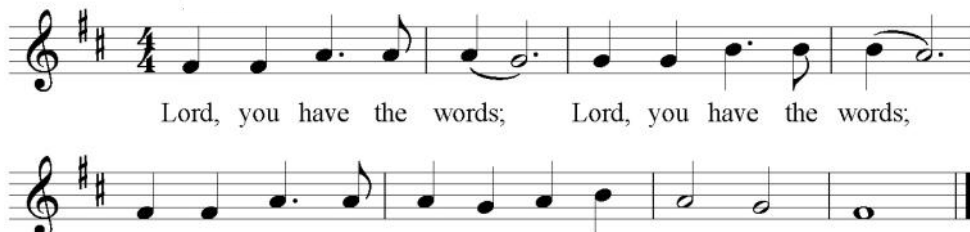
*The Hymn of Praise, 52 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

*The Invocation

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Reflection on the Ten Commandments (responsive)



Lord, you have the words; Lord, you have the words;
Lord, you have the words of ev - er - last - ing life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The music is simple and melodic, with a clear emphasis on the words.

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 2008

Music: based on a melody from Honduras

LEADER: Brothers and sisters in Christ, as forgiven people
we are now freed to live in grateful response to God,
following God's law, which is our guide for full and abundant life:

PEOPLE: **We are freed to worship God and God alone . . .
freed from having to make anything an idol.**

LEADER: We are freed to call on the name of the Lord without
abusing God's name.

PEOPLE: **We are freed for a day of worship and rest,
freed to love those who gave us birth and nurtured us.**

LEADER: Freed from all that binds us,

PEOPLE: **we shall not kill or break sacred bonds;**

LEADER: we need not steal or lie,

PEOPLE: **nor crave anything that belongs to another.**

LEADER: God's law brings us goodness and blessing;

PEOPLE: **God's grace gives us confidence and joy.**

The Call to Confession

LEADER: Despite all that God has taught us,

PEOPLE: **we still act foolishly;
we are still weak.**

LEADER: In the cross of Christ,
we find forgiveness and grace.

PEOPLE: **We confess our sins,
trusting in God's wisdom and strength
rather than our own.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

Lord, you have the words; Lord, you have the words;

Lord, you have the words of ev - er - last - ing life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with a final whole note on 'life'.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Christian Testament

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Lynn Loomis

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 Anthem

"My Song in the Night"
Paul Christiansen, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day, and my song in the night.
O why should I wander, an alien from Thee,
Or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

Words and Music: Traditional Southern Folk Hymn

The Gospel

John 2:13–22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion “Lord Jesus, Come and Overturn”

PUER NOBIS

**Lord Jesus, come and overturn
the powers that corrupt and bind.
Transform our temples with your love
and claim our conscience with your mind.**

**You turn the tables on our greed
and set a different kind of feast:
where mercy answers ev'ry need
and great ones humbly serve the least.**

**You cast aside our vain desires
and offer us a nobler goal:
the justice that your love requires
and dignity for ev'ry soul.**

**Lord Jesus, come and live in us
and let your blessed truth resound
in ev'ry temple, heart, and home
where charity and love are found.**

Words: David Gambrell, 2015
Music: 14th century carol

The Homily

Christopher Chapman

“It’s Not About Wednesday Night Suppers”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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, 777

“The Lord Is Here!”

CRIMOND

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

“Festal Flourish”

Maureen Howell

Gordon Jacob

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Lynn Loomis. A 26-year member of First Baptist, Lynn serves as Preschool Music and Movement leader and serves as the chair of the Nominating Committee and is a planner for Toy Joy. She is a member of the Sanctuary Choir and the Everett Miller Friendship class and is a teacher for Grade 3–5 Sunday School class. Lynn and her husband Bill have a blended family of five daughters, seven granddaughters, and three grandsons.

Thanks to Beth McCollum, violin, for providing music during this morning's communion.

The banner on the pulpit today is sponsored by Jim and Jennie Keown in honor of all the volunteers of the clothing ministry.

Sympathy to Alice and Lynn Marshbanks on the February 25 death of their mother, Mary Jane Marshbanks.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 6: 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 *Jesus and the Psalms in John's Gospel*. On March 13, it will be *Psalms and Betrayal: Righteous Suffering*, and on March 20, *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 6 is: smothered chicken with red potatoes and mixed vegetables; non-meat option: mock chicken; kids: chicken nuggets.

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour this Saturday night (March 9) for the return of Daylight Saving Time.

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.

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.

If you have a clear driving record and are interested in being a part of our FBC Bus Ministry Team which provides transportation each Sunday morning for folks at Springmoor and The Oaks, email Lynn Lingafelt (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org).

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.

Giving Generously with Gratitude, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 147 pledges in the amount of \$1,196,750. 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 \$10,447.

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 • March 3–10

Sunday, March 3

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 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)

Monday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

- 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 7

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

Sunday, March 10

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (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)