

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 28, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, a day when the gospel text explores Jesus' metaphor of vine and branches which points to a communal and interdependent relationship with the Triune God. In particular, we'll focus on what it means to *abide* and the resulting fruit that is born from a connected and intentional relationship with the One who is the Vine. Our reading from 1 John will give a hint at the fruit that will be further explored in next week's gospel reading. We sing praises for God's faithfulness and for the gifts of God's creation.

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

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
John Ferguson

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

LEADER: In the wilderness, water brings life.

PEOPLE: **Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

LEADER: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

PEOPLE: **Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

LEADER: In the vineyard, the roots draw sustenance to grow.

PEOPLE: **Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

ALL: **Come! Let us give our hearts in worship to God.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 20 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

ODE TO JOY

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

Myra Brickell

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Sanctuary Choir

Holy, holy, holiness unto the Lord.
Love ye, love ye, love ye one another.

Words and Tune adapted from Shaker Song, "Slow March"
by Bro. Ephraim Frost, 1872 ; Kavin Siegfried, arr

The Morning Prayer

Michael Hood

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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Maureen Howell, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father.
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love

O great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
Tune: *FAITHFULNESS*, William M. Runyan, 1923

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 286

BRIDEGROOM

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

The Sermon

Lynn Lingafelt

“A Communal Word”

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, 379

AR HYD Y NOS

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

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

“For the Fruit of All Creation”
Frank Stoldt

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Myra Brickell. A 37-year member, Myra serves on the Finance Committee and as a Director for the Preschool Division of Sunday School. She is a member of the Pathfinders Class and the Sanctuary Choir. She is also treasurer for the Thirty-Niners and is an office volunteer. Myra and her husband Sterling have one daughter, Jessica Helms, and two grandsons, Asher and Ryder.

The flowers are given in memory of Jimmy and Louise Rollins and Matt and Ann Loyko, Tom and Ann Rollins' parents.

Our acolytes today are Hayes and Alice Strickland.

Dr. and Mrs. Chapman are worshipping today at Warrenton Baptist Church, where he was pastor from 1989–1992, on the occasion of the church’s 175th anniversary.

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming release of the 2024 FBC pictorial directory! Sign-up sheets for photo sessions will be in the Lewis Lobby after worship on Sundays and on Wednesday nights, or you may call or text Diane Ellis to make an appointment or sign up via this Google link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA8AE28ABFDC61-49292971-directory>. Pictures will be taken in room 224. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Please join us this Wednesday, May 1, at 6:15pm for our annual spring music celebration program in the fellowship hall. We will hear performances by our Pre-K/ Kindergarten and Grade-School Choirs and our children and leaders will be recognized. We will also enjoy a performance by the Evening Bells. Prior to the program, all participants in the children’s choirs will gather in their rooms at their regular time of 5:45pm.

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). The menu on May 1 is: pasta primavera; kids: macaroni and cheese.


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 the first floor.

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.

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 • April 28–May 5

Sunday, April 28

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/Lynn Lingafelt preaching (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)

Monday, April 29

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
Directory photo session (224)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Tuesday, April 30

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
Directory photo session (224)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)

Wednesday, May 1

- 4:00 Directory photo session (224)
- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:15 Spring music celebration (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/S)

Thursday, May 2

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

Friday, May 3

- 9:30 Directory photo session (224)

Saturday, May 4

- 9:30 Directory photo session (224)

Sunday, May 5

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Everette Miller Friendship class luncheon (302)
- 3:00 Thirty-Niners play outing (Theatre in the Park)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor

J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus	Warren Howell, Music
Wayne Hager, Church Administrator	Lynn Lingafelt, Children
Michael Hood, Youth/College	Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor
Maureen Howell, Organist/Music Assistant	Leah Anderson Reed, Community

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.