

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 12, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 12, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the last Sunday before Pentecost, the day we celebrate the Ascension, though the exact date this year was May 9. More than an explanation for why the Risen Christ does not still walk among us in physical form, the Ascension stories make space for the work of the church to begin. Christ has ascended and called us to continue his ministry with the empowerment of the Spirit who he promises will come. We celebrate this calling and empowerment through joyful music and prayers of thanksgiving. We reflect on Jesus' final words before his departure which end in a blessing. We claim Christ's ceaseless blessing on us and empowerment of our ministry.

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Maureen Howell, arr.

Maureen Howell

The Anthem

"Let Us Rejoice and Sing"
Larry Schultz

Grade-School Choir

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and sing!
Sing even when the night is long and you must sing a silent song.
Sing even when the day goes wrong; sing to the Lord a song.
Sing to the Lord in honesty; sing to the Lord triumphantly;
Sing to the Lord most joyfully. This is the day the Lord has made.

Words: Psalm 118:24 and Larry Schultz, 1988

The Call to Worship

based on Psalm 47

LEADER: Clap your hands, all people,
Let us rejoice and sing!

PEOPLE: **Shout for joy, sing songs of praise.
God reigns over all the earth!**

LEADER: God has gone up with a shout!

PEOPLE: **Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!**

LEADER: This is the day the Lord has made.

PEOPLE: **Let us worship God.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 263

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 1:1–11

Jamie Vogel

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Hymn of Devotion “An Open Hand, a Willing Heart”



Choir: An o - pen hand, a will - ing heart, a gen - tle word, a chal - lenge,
All: { A stir - ring call, a nar - row road, a liv - ing dream, a prom - ise,
All worlds re - born, all deaths un - done, all things in God u - nit - ed,



Spir - it, breathe in - to this church, the ris - en bod - y of Christ.

Words: Adam M. L. Tice, 2008
Music: Warren Howell, 2024

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

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

Words: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1863

The Sermon

“Many Forms of Blessing”

Christopher Chapman

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, 562

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

DIX

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

“Postlude”
Allen Orton Gibbs

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jamie Vogel. A 29-year member of First Baptist, Jamie serves as the church clerk and is a member of the Worship Committee. He is also a member of the Sanctuary Choir and of The Journey Sunday School Class. Jamie and his wife Cara Lynn have one son, Jesse.

Our acolytes today are Thomas and Megan Archer.

Sympathy to the families of Kay Cone, who died on May 4, and Max Baldwin, who died on May 7.

The sanctuary flowers are given on this Mother's Day by Joann Cooper in a message to mothers with children as they provide love and teach personal character traits; and to all others with responsibility for the children of God's World.

Class of 2024, congratulations! If you are graduating from college, email Jennie Herrick (jherrick@fbcraleigh.org) with the following information for our church's publications: graduate's name, college, degree, and your relationship to the graduate, and any family connections within our church. Please note that the link to Jennie's email address in the *Rose Window Weekly* was incorrect, so if you had tried to send information that way, it may not have reached her and you will need to resend it.

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: 919-610-6606, or sign up via this Google link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA8AE28ABFDC61-49292971-directory>. Pictures will be taken in room 224 and the last day for sittings is May 22. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Mark your calendars for our Children's Missions Celebration on Wednesday, May 15, at 6pm. Our Mission Friends, GAs, and RAs will cover stories of peoples' lives being changed for the better through CBF missions around the world.

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 15 is: BBQ chicken with baked potato and corn; non-meat option: mock chicken; kids: nuggets.

Dr. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus, will be giving a lecture in the sanctuary on Monday, May 20, at 5:30pm: "*The House Tommy Built and the Life Tommy Lived: Thomas E. Skinner, Baptist Pastor, 1825- 1903.*" The lecture is the opening event for the May joint meeting of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, the Baptist History & Heritage Society, and the Association of Ministry Guidance Professionals, and FBC has been invited to attend. For those who wish to stay for the BBQ banquet and musical entertainment afterward in the fellowship hall, the cost is \$25. Please make reservations and pay on the church website (fbcraleigh.org/supper-music-may-20) by May 15.


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 • May 12–19

Sunday, May 12

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (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, May 13

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Tuesday, May 14

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

Wednesday, May 15

- 1:00 WMU Circle #7 (parlor)
- 4:30 Directory photo session (224)
- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Children's Mission Celebration (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Handbell rehearsal (S)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/S)

Thursday, May 16

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Big Ed's, 220 Wolfe Street)
- 5:00 Directory photo session (224)

Saturday, May 18

- 10:00 Directory photo session (224)

Sunday, May 19 *Pentecost*

- 8:30 Directory photo session (224)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 2:00 Music Made in Heaven concert and reception (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH

Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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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.