

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 5, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we continue to celebrate the good news of resurrection and read texts that point to how the early church seeks to follow the Risen Christ. Throughout the book of Acts, early believers are led by the Spirit to enable more and more people to be embraced by the love of God revealed in Christ. Today's brief story marks a watershed moment in which Gentiles are embraced and those with a Jewish background are challenged to let go of their biases against Gentile inclusion. This dual dynamic continues to this day as we celebrate the extension of God's realm but find it challenging to embrace all the people God includes. We sing praises to the God who shapes this vision larger than our imagination, we pray for a world that needs God's inclusive love, and we conclude with a celebration of communion, a meal where God welcomes all and invites us to do the same.

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

"Prelude from *Suite Antique*"
John Rutter

Maureen Howell
Becky Mercer, flute

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 98

LEADER: Sing to our God a new song.

PEOPLE: God has done marvelous things!

LEADER: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

PEOPLE: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

LEADER: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

PEOPLE: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

*The Hymn of Praise

“O Sing to the Lord”

CANTAI AO SENHOR



1 O sing to the Lord; O sing God a
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the
 4 O shout to our God, who gave us the
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a
 won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done
 trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the
 Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the
 lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.
 won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

Words and Music: Portuguese (Brazilian Folk song)
 English Trans. and Music arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 10:44–48

Jeff Hobart

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

1 John 5:1–6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Musical score for 'The Response' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love, live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.' The second system includes a triplet of eighth notes in both the vocal and bass lines.

Words and Music Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community, 1979

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

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Sanctuary Choir

David Cherwien, arr.

Becky Mercer, flute

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand’ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion’s love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

Tune: *HOLY MANNA*, attr. William Moore, 1825

The Gospel

John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 477

EBENEZER

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Something More Important Than the Sermon”

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, 556

ST. CATHERINE

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

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

“Prelude on CANTAD AL SEÑOR”

Maureen Howell

Robert M. Thompson

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jeff Hobart. A 31-year member, Jeff is Chair of the Planned Giving Committee. He is married to Holly Cook and has two grown children, Leigh and Keller.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Bill Simpson by Edith and Steve.

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.

Please keep in prayer the 38 people (20 class members and 18 of their children) with the Grains of Sand class who are returning from their retreat to Lake Gaston today.

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.

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. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, May 8; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, Ryan Willis and representatives from the Finance Committee will lead a program on the opportunities to support future ministries through planned giving.

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 8 is: Mediterranean Night—lamb and rice with lentils, tzatziki, and chickpeas; non-meat option: rice with lentils; kids: fish sticks.


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 5–12

Sunday, May 5

- 8:30 Directory photo session (224)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Directory photo session (224)
- 12:15 Everett Miller Friendship class luncheon (302)
- 3:00 Thirty-Niners outing (Theatre in the Park)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)

Monday, May 6

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 12:00 Directory photo session (224)
- 5:00 Directory photo session (224)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven (302)

Tuesday, May 7

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 12:00 Directory photo session (224)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 6:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 7:00 Social Committee meeting (conference room)

Wednesday, May 8

- 4:30 Directory photo session (224)
- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 All-Missions Night (PS/CS)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/S)

Thursday, May 9

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 12:00 Directory photo session (224)

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)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH

Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor

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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.