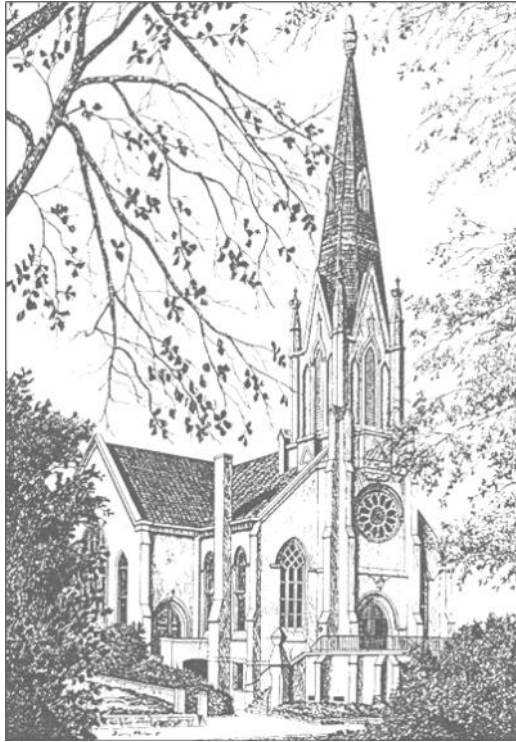


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 11, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 11, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, we continue with readings from 2 Samuel, Ephesians, and John. After shifting to the narrative from ancient Israel's history last week, we return to the Bread of Life Discourse this week, pondering its relationship to communion and all of Christian life. How literally should we take Jesus' claim that he is the bread of life? Is this simply symbolic language? The sermon explores these questions, and the service music offers its own rich and textured answers to them. We conclude with the celebration of communion, an opportunity to taste and see what Jesus is talking about, to experience God's love in a very personal yet shared way.

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

"I Come with Joy"
Daniel Burton

Maureen Howell

The Introit

“Come, Ye That Love the Lord”
Early American Hymn/Alice Parker, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Come, ye that love the Lord, and let your love be known;
join in a song of sweet accord and thus surround the throne.
The sorrows of the mind be banished from this place;
religion never was designed to make our pleasures less.
Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the Heavenly King may speak their joys abroad.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707

The Call to Worship (responsive)

inspired by Psalm 130

LEADER: Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.

PEOPLE: Hear our voices!

LEADER: We wait for you;

PEOPLE: in your word we hope.

LEADER: O soul, cast off your sorrow,

PEOPLE: Come, let us lift God's name together,

LEADER: for there is steadfast love in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Let us look to God and be radiant.

The Invocation



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day. Gath-er us in and



lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haughty; gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so
 wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and
 hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in, all



we shall a-wak-en; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 meek and so low-ly; give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33

Matt Strickland

⁵The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. ⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. ⁹Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.

Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

¹⁵And ten young men, Joab’s armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

³¹Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.” ³²The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.”

³³The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

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.**

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2. All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er; Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil- der- ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest- less- ness and roam- ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone- li- ness and long- ing. Here in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a- round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered, in com- mu- nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta- ble live their lives in grat- i- tude.



Taste and see the grace e- ter- nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e- ter- nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e- ter- nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990

Music: William Moore's *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Something Other Than Literalism or Symbolism”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Anthem

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

Sanctuary Choir

Gary Matheny, arr.

O living bread from heaven,
How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing,
O cup that heals our woes,
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows!

My Lord, you here have led me
Within your holiest place,
And here yourself have fed me
With treasures of your grace;
For you have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted,
This food can death destroy;
And you have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before your throne.

Words: Johann Rist, 1651
Catherine Winkworth, tr., alt.
Music: The Sacred Harp, 1850

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, 768 “I Come with Joy”

DOVE OF PEACE

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

“Majestic Voluntary”

Maureen Howell

Henry Kihlken

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Matt Strickland. A 12-year member, Matt is a teacher for the High School (Grades 9–12) Sunday School class and a member of the Properties Committee. He and his wife Allison have two children, Alice and Hayes.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Jerry H. Stevens and Rolin Aston Stevens by Berti Stevens and family.

Our new church directories are available for pick-up in the Lewis Lobby (or in the church office during the week). To cover the cost of printing, a suggested donation of \$10 per directory would be greatly appreciated. You may also access the directory online via ACCESS ACS, our church database software. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for directions on how to register.

Please keep the nine people returning today from the senior class trip to Kure Beach in your prayers.

This evening, from 5:30–8pm in the fellowship hall, we'll have a potluck dinner followed by a screening of the Baptist Women in Ministry's newly released documentary *Midwives of a Movement*, and a Q&A with BWIM's Executive Director, Dr. Meredith Stone. Meat will be provided; please sign up for side dishes and desserts ([FBC: Midwives of a Movement Potluck \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)).

Help out the FBC youth by donating a breakfast snack this summer! Grab a box of granola bars, pastries, Pop-Tarts, or something similar and leave it in the Lewis Lobby or near the elevator on the second and third floors.

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.

To access the church WiFi, please use our guest network: *FBC-MG*; password: "biography." You will need to sign in upon each use.



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

Visiting? We'd love to get to know you. Scan the QR code to the right to share your contact information.



Calendar Highlights • August 11–18

Sunday, August 11

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 5:30 BWIM documentary screening & potluck supper (fellowship hall)
- 8:00 Senior Night (Blue Room)

Monday, August 12

Clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, August 13

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

Wednesday, August 14

- 10:00 High school Bible study (Blue Room)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, August 15

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 4:00 5th grade pool party (Lake Park Swim Club)

Sunday, August 18

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Toy Joy meeting (301)
- 5:00 Youth group (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.