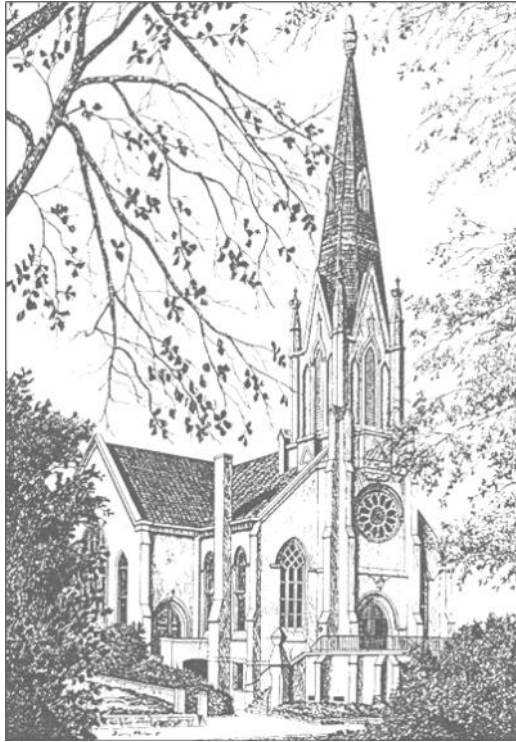


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 25, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: The opening elements of worship today invite us to find shelter in the presence of a loving God, and then, to offer thanks and praise to God, which we will do through traditional hymns and a Gospel anthem sung by an ensemble. The texts present a couple metaphors which require careful consideration — one about putting on the armor of God and the other about eating the flesh of Jesus and drinking his blood. In the third reading, Solomon stretches traditional thought by asking God to hear the prayers of not only the Israelites but also foreigners who come to the temple. So, there is much to ponder and find insight in today, all under the guidance of the Spirit. The sermon explores the imagery of “the armor of God” found in Ephesians, noting the problematic possibilities of this metaphor yet also considering its value in providing resources for engaging the great cosmic struggle between good and evil. We go forth better equipped to contend for good and with the knowledge that we are never alone in this calling.

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

“Pianosong”
Paul Halley

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 84

LEADER: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God, most gracious host.

PEOPLE: **My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the household of God.**

LEADER: Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest in your care.

PEOPLE: **Happy are those who lie in your house, ever singing your praise.**

LEADER: For the Lord God is a sun and shield, bestowing favor and honor.

PEOPLE: **O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 333 “How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”

MERLE’S TUNE

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Kings 8:22–30, 41–43

Tom Childrey

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Sanctuary Choir

Maureen Howell, arr.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
 O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near leaning on the everlasting arms.

Words: Elisha Hoffman, 1887
 Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

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.**

The Song of Response

Refrain

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

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

Words and Music: Hal H. Hopson, 2008

The Gospel

John 6:56–69

⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Just Over in the Gloryland”

Emmett S. Dean

Gospel Ensemble

Bob Kimball, solo

I’ve a home prepared where the saints abide,
And I long to be by my savior’s side.
I am on my way to those mansions fair,
There to sing God’s praise and his glory share.

*Just over in the gloryland, I’ll join the happy angel band.
There with the mighty host I’ll stand, just over in the gloryland.*

What a joyful thought that my Lord I’ll see,
And with all God’s children forever be.
As I onward go I will shout and sing,
Glad hosannas to Christ, the Lord and King.

Words: James W. Acuff, 1906, alt.

Music: Emmett S. Dean, 1906

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Resources for Engaging the Struggle”

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, 710

AUSTRIAN HYMN

“We Are Called To Be God’s People”

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

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”

Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Tom Childrey. Tom is a 31-year member of First Baptist who serves on the Finance Committee and is a member of the Formations Sunday School Class. Tom and his wife Maria have three daughters: Katie, Ann, and Caroline.

Our acolytes today are Caroline and Nick Bradley.

Today's banner is sponsored by Myra and Sterling Brickell in honor of Asher and Ryder Helms, their grandboys.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the August 19 birth of Rafael Vassallo Dare, son of Mitch and Jess and grandson of Meg and Mike.

Sympathy to the family of Betty Singletary, who died on August 21.

Church conference: Wednesday, August 28; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm, in person and via Zoom (link and documents may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*).

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 August 28 is: chicken or vegetarian ziti.

For our August mission project, we are collecting monetary donations for the Kofinou Refugee Camp in Cyprus for school supplies. With each \$20 given, a child will receive a backpack and a school uniform shirt. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Pick up your new church directory 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 is greatly appreciated. You may also access it on our website and via ACCESS ACS, our church database software. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for directions on how to register.

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.

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 and the page that lists all our e-giving options and instructions.

Calendar Highlights • August 25–September 1

Sunday, August 25

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 12:45 Handbell rehearsal (301/302)
- 5:00 Youth Kick-off (fellowship hall/Blue Room)

Monday, August 26

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:00 Preschool Sunday School leaders meeting (301)

Tuesday, August 27

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 6:00 Grade-school Sunday School leaders meeting (301)

Wednesday, August 28

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:15 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, August 29

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, September 1

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)

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.