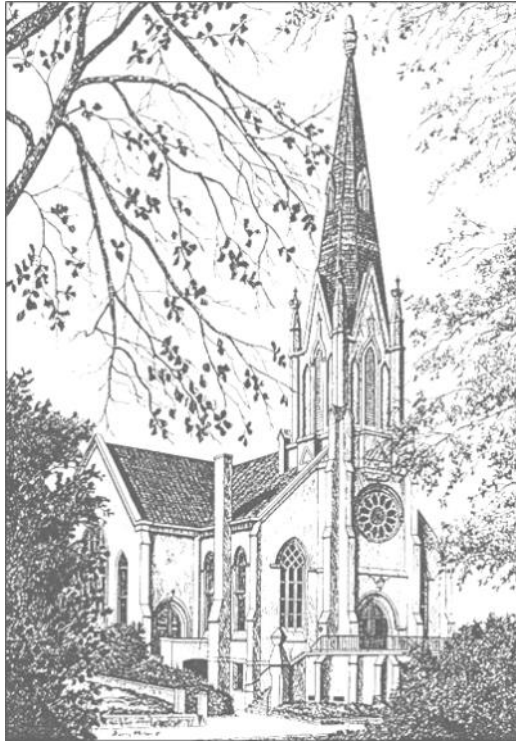


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 15, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: We begin worship planning each week with the biblical texts chosen for this day in the Christian year. Today's texts have numerous points of connection — the responsibility of teachers, the use of words, and the inevitability of suffering in faithful discipleship, to name a few. The texts also present various characters we might examine for insight into our own lives and faith, one of the most interesting being Jesus' disciple Peter. While multiple themes shape our prayers and music today, the sermon examines this fascinating follower of Jesus. A thorough exploration of his character reveals many strengths and flaws, and we see him in today's text at his best and worst, but Peter remains in Jesus' inner circle throughout his life. Might we find encouragement in this reality?

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

"I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light" Maureen Howell
John A. Behnke

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Based on Psalm 19

LEADER: Look at the heavens!

PEOPLE: **They are shouting the glory of God.**

LEADER: The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works.

PEOPLE: **Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.**

LEADER: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

PEOPLE: **Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!**

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Elizabeth Riley

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

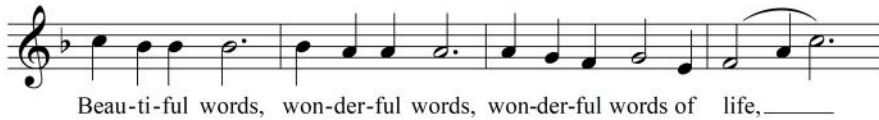
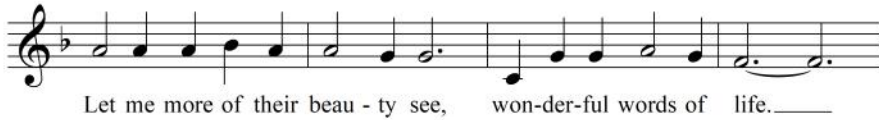
James 3:1–12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1874

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 Gospel

Mark 8:27–38

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 229

CRUCIFER

“Lift High the Cross”
(stanzas 1–3, 5)

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Barney Fife, Peter, and Us”

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, 539

HOUSTON

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

“City Called Heaven”
Josephine Poelinitz, arr.

Sanctuary Choir
Caroline Childrey, solo

I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow,
I’m left in this olde wide world alone!
Oh I ain’t got no hope for tomorrow,
I’m trying to make it, make heaven my home.
Sometimes I’m tossed and I’m driven, Lord.
Sometimes I just don’t know which way to turn.
Oh I heard of a city called heaven,
I’m trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow’r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt

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

“Lift High the Cross”
Jacob B. Weber

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Elizabeth Riley. A 15-year member who's been at First Baptist since birth, Elizabeth serves on the Adult Ministries Council, the Toy Joy team, the Stewardship Committee, and the Weekday Preschool Board. She is also a member of the Wilderness Sunday School class and a 2s/3s Mission Friends teacher.

Our offering helper today is Asher Helms, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Richard Gene Puckett by Robbie and family.

Please keep the ten people going on the 3rd–5th grade retreat to Camp Kanata in Wake Forest in your prayers.

Rise Against Hunger meal-packing: Sunday, September 29, at 12:15pm. RSVP to Nancy Moore Phillips (nancyp919@gmail.com) by Wednesday, September 25. More info in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 6, 3-7pm at Optimist Farm Park (2908 Optimist Farm Road, Apex, 27539) for our annual Fall Festival! Register at [FBC: Fall Festival \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com), and pay online or at the kiosk. The cost will be \$10 per person (4+), maximum of \$40 per family. More details in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 18; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. Our program this week is *'The Lord Bless You and Keep You': The Priestly Blessing in Scripture and Christian Tradition*. What does it mean to seek or to give a blessing from God? How do our words of blessing or prayer affect our experience of God or our relationship to other people? Dr. Stephen Chapman, associate professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity School, will conclude his two-week Bible study examining the priestly blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 in the context of the Old Testament and in the history of Christian teaching and worship.

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 September 18 is: pork tenderloin with baked apples and macaroni and cheese; non-meat option: mock meat; kids: chicken nuggets.

Interested in improving the appearance of the church grounds? Join the recently formed landscaping team and help us evaluate, plan, organize efforts, and monitor the appearance of the church's exterior areas. Contact Jeff Hobart (hobart2473@gmail.com) to learn more.

Our September mission project is to support our Toy Joy ministry in one of several ways. Today, 12–3pm, in the fellowship hall, we are collecting new or GENTLY USED toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, and books. Please make sure that all used items are clean and in very good condition, with ALL of their pieces and parts included (otherwise we cannot use them). See the *Rose Window Weekly* for links to Amazon, Walmart, and Target wish lists. If you prefer for our Toy Joy team to do the shopping, you may also donate funds directly to the church, specifying TOY JOY in the memo line. We will use those funds to purchase items as needed to serve families we register.

Theology on Tap will celebrate ten years of building friendship and fellowship on Thursday, September 19, by gathering at Lynnwood Brewing Concern (1053 E Whitaker Mill Road), at 6pm for dinner, beverages, and conversation. All are welcome to attend, but we hope anyone who has joined us over the last 10 years will stop by for the momentous occasion!

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 • September 15–22

Sunday, September 15

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Toy Joy collection day (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)

Monday, September 16

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 5:00 Adult Ministries Council meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, September 17

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

Wednesday, September 18

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
Stewardship Team meeting (108)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
Youth Bible study (Blue Room)
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, September 19

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Lynnwood Grill and Brewing Concern)

Friday, September 20–Sunday, September 22

3rd–5th grade retreat (Camp Kanata, Wake Forest)

Sunday, September 22

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:00 Everette Miller Friendship class luncheon (301)
- 5:00 Youth choir (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.