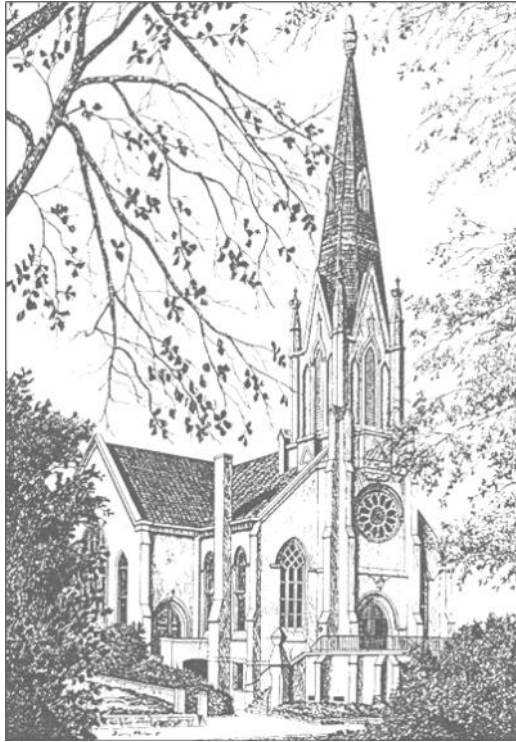


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 22, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: The texts for today contrast wisdom with foolishness, inviting us to ponder the character of our lives. We do so in the context of grace, confessing our frailty and reaching for our potential. We all make wise and foolish choices, yet as Jesus sticks with his disciples, no matter how many times they miss the point, the God who was in Christ sticks with us. In response to this reality, we offer songs of praise, lift up prayers of gratitude, and renew our commitment to service.

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

"Scherzo on MIT FREUDEN ZART"
John Ferguson

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Based on Psalm 1

LEADER: Blessed are those who walk hand in hand with goodness,

PEOPLE: **who stand beside virtue,**

LEADER: who sit in the seat of truth;

PEOPLE: **For their delight is in the Spirit of Love,**

LEADER: and in Love's heart they dwell day and night.

PEOPLE: **Come, let us walk in the way of the Lord.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 50

MIT FREUDEN ZART

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Psalm 1

Sanctuary Choir
Niya Petkova, solo

Refrain: *Solo first time, **All** on repeats*



Hap - py are they who love the law of the Lord.

The one is blest who honors God, walks not where sinners meet,
Who does not stand with wicked ones and shuns the scorners' seat.

How blest the one who in God's law finds goodness and delight,
And meditates upon that law with gladness day and night.

That one is nourished like a tree set by the river's side;
Its leaf is green, its fruit is sure; the works of such abide.

The wicked, like the driven chaff, are swept from off the land;
They shall not gather with the just, nor at the judgement stand.

The Lord will guard the righteous well, God's arms are strong and fast;
The way of sinners, far from God, shall surely fail at last.

Words: *The Psalter*, 1912, alt.
Music: Hal H. Hopson, 2008

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

Words: Matthew 11:28-30

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 9:30–37

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

“Who Is Greatest in the Kingdom”

NETTLETON

**"Who is greatest in the kingdom? Who among us is the best?"
The disciples were debating: "In God's reign, who will be blest?"
Jesus, had those twelve forgotten? Faithful living has a cost —
And to journey where you'd lead them, they would journey to the cross.**

**"Who is greatest in the kingdom?" The disciples heard your call:
"If you want to be the first one, you must be the last of all."
Do not think that high position is a thing that you deserve!
"If you want to be the first, then, be the first to humbly serve."**

**"Who is greatest in the kingdom? Who will take the throne and reign?"
Christ, you put a child among them, and you told them once again:
"If you give a child a welcome, then you also welcome me."
Faithful service, not ambition, builds up God's community.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2018

Music: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“The Nature of Wisdom and How To Acquire It”

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, 369

SLANE

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

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

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” Maureen Howell
Hal H. Hopson

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jeff Mercer. A 27-year member of First Baptist, Jeff is a teacher for Grains of Sand Sunday School class. He and his wife Becky have two children, Will and Cady.

Our acolytes today are Austin and Sebastian Burton.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Christy Isaacs Alston, on what would have been her 54th birthday on September 23 by her son, Alejandro Alston, and her parents, Linda and Dan Roberts.

Please keep the ten people returning from 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*.

Church conference: Wednesday, September 25; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and Zoom link.

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 25 is: breakfast for supper.

Our September mission project is to support our Toy Joy ministry in one of several ways. 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.

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.

Calendar Highlights • September 22–29

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)

Monday, September 23

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 5:30 Deacons' meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 24

- 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 25

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:15 Church conference (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 26

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (High Park Bar & Grill,
625 E. Whitaker Mill Road)

Sunday, September 29

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC/JBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 12:00 Rise Against Hunger meal-packing (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)



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.



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.