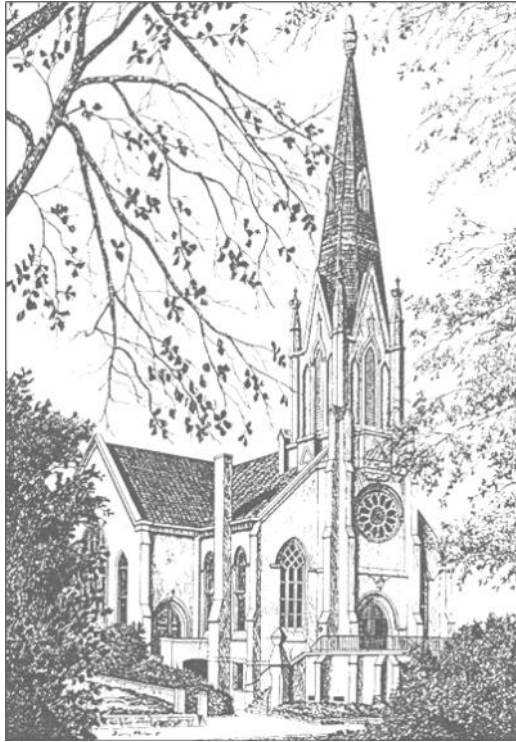


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 8, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Some Sundays the lectionary texts fit together seamlessly, some Sundays they don't seem related to each other, and some Sundays they are in conflict. Today's texts move back and forth between these possibilities. There is a consistent calling for faith lived out in service to people in need, but James' criticism of favoritism stands in stark contrast to Jesus' demonstration of favoritism in the reading from Mark. What do we do with the tension created by this contrast? The sermon explores this question as we seek to live out our faith in a world that is often filled with tension and ambiguity. Yet even amidst the tension, we are called to love God and our neighbor, and thus we lift up songs of praise, we pray for our sisters and brothers, and we deepen the connection we have to all people through Christ in the celebration of communion.

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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 in B minor, Op. 18"  
César Franck

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Based on Psalm 125

LEADER: Praise God, who surrounds us like a mountain shield,

PEOPLE: **The Maker of us all.**

LEADER: Praise God, who defends the defenseless,

PEOPLE: **And calls us to mercy and justice.**

LEADER: Praise God, who pleads the cause of the poor,

PEOPLE: **And calls us to generous hearts.**

LEADER: Praise God who is good and does good,

PEOPLE: **May we rest in God's goodness this hour.**

“O for a Thousand Tongues To Sing”

\*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22-23

Carolyn Dickens

<sup>1</sup>A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. <sup>2</sup>The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. <sup>8</sup>Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. <sup>9</sup>Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. <sup>22</sup>Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; <sup>23</sup>for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

James 2:1–10, 14-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Words: Taizé Community  
 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979

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 Anthem

“My God Is So High”

Moses Hogan, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Dean Blakeley, solo

My God is so high you can't get over him,  
he's so low, you can't get under him,  
he's so wide you, you can't get 'round him.  
You must come in by and through the Lamb.

One day as I was walkin'  
along the heavenly road,  
my Savior spoke unto me and  
he filled my heart with his love.

I'll take my gospel trumpet  
and I'll begin to blow,  
and if my Savior helps me,  
I'll blow wherever I'll go.

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual

The Gospel

Mark 7:24–37

<sup>24</sup>From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”

1. We can - not meas - ure how you heal or an - swer ev - 'ry  
 2. The pain that will not go a - way, the guilt that clings from  
 3. So some have come who need your help, and some have come to

suf - f'rer's prayer, yet we be - lieve your love re - sponds when  
 things long past, the fear of what the fu - ture holds are  
 make a - mends as hands, which shaped and saved the world, are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your hands, though blood - ied on the  
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But pres - ent too is love which  
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord, let your Spir - it meet us

cross, sur - vive to hold and heal and warn, to car - ry  
 tends the hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the pri - vate  
 here to mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to dis - en -

all through death to life and cra - dle chil - dren still un - born.  
 ag - o - nies in - side, the mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.  
 tan - gle peace from pain, and make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1989

Music: Scottish traditional

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

“We Sing Your Praise”

Michael Haydn

Sanctuary Choir

Beth McCollum, violin

Becky Mercer, flute

We sing your praise, O Manna from on high,  
O Bread of life, Redeemer of the world:  
Holy, Holy, Holy, beyond measure, holy.  
Love’s redeeming work is done  
In this wondrous holy feast.

### The Cup Is Shared

O Fount of life and Spring of water clear,  
O Word of God, we give you thanks and praise:  
Holy, Holy, Holy, beyond measure, holy.  
Love’s redeeming work is done  
In this wondrous holy feast.

— 18th c. Latin text, trans. Richard Proulx

### 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 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

NYLAND

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Text: Fred Kaan, 1975  
Tune: Trad. Finnish Melody

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

“Voluntary on AZMON”  
Barbara Harbach

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Carolyn Dickens. A 47-year member, Carolyn serves as the church archivist and as the president of the Thirty-Niners and is on their Program Committee. She is a trustee, the vice-chair and council rep for the Personnel Committee, a wedding director, and a member of the Adult Ministries Council, the Pathfinders Sunday School class, and the Sanctuary Choir. Carolyn and her husband Kent have two married children and four grandchildren.

The flowers for today's worship service are sponsored by Emily Johnson in loving memory of her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson, and her sister, Becky Wines.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 11; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. Our program this week and next 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 lead a 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](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice)), by email ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu on September 11 is: hamburger steak with gravy and rice & broccoli Normandy; non-meat option: mock hamburger steak.

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](mailto:hobart2473@gmail.com)) to learn more.

Our September mission project is to support our Toy Joy ministry in one of several ways. First, we will have the first of two donation drop-off/collection days on Sunday, September 15, from 12-3pm, in the fellowship hall. At that time, we will collect 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.

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 • September 8–15

### Sunday, September 8

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (226)
- 4:00 Denominational Relations Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (301/Blue Room)

### Monday, September 9

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### Tuesday, September 10

- 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 11

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 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 12

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

### Saturday, September 14

- 10:00 Visitation for Betty Singletary (fellowship hall)
- 11:00 Betty Singletary memorial service (sanctuary)

### 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)

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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.*