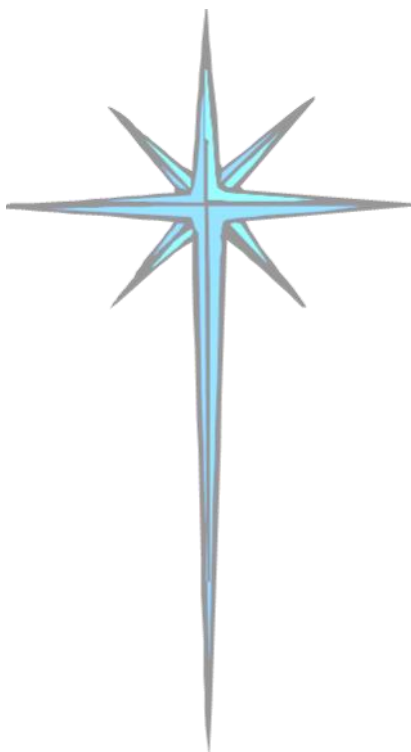


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 29, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this First Sunday after Christmas, we continue to celebrate the good news of God's love for the world revealed in the birth of a child. Mary is said first to ponder this news and later to treasure it. We follow her example today, reflecting on the great paradox of incarnation and celebrating this transforming mystery with shouts of praise and songs of joy. We depart to continue the work of incarnation, seeking to put a human face on God's love, embodying the reality of God-With-Us.

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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
Paul Manz

Jason Schodt

The Call to Worship

based on Psalm 148

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Heavens and heights,

PEOPLE: Praise the Lord, you sky-bound shining lights!

LEADER: Praise God, you hosts and messengers of the Most High.

PEOPLE: Praise in the rain, and the snow, and the forest below!

LEADER: Praise the Lord, you winds and seas,

PEOPLE: Praise God, all you hand-clapping trees.

LEADER: Every beast and bird and swimming thing,

PEOPLE: creeping or crawling, your praises bring.

LEADER: Every living, breathing thing, praise the Lord.

PEOPLE: All heaven and nature sing: Praise the Lord!

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 151

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Crystal Bacon

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

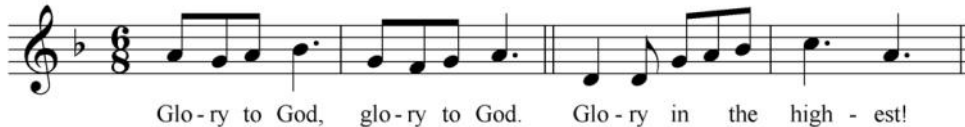
LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



Words: Traditional
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

Elaine and John Holley

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Catherine McMichael, arr.

The Gospel

Luke 2:41–52

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.”

⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”

⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 150

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Pondering the Divine-Human Paradox”

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, 192

KINGSFOLD

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

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

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Jason Schodt

Cindy Berry

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Crystal Bacon. A 28-year member and first-term deacon, Crystal is the director of the FBC Weekday Preschool and is an ex-officio member of the Weekday Preschool Council. She and her husband Dan have three children: Nathan, Savannah, and Addie.

We thank our guest pianist, Jason Schodt, for sharing his musical gifts with us this morning.

Hospitality + Community, our 2025 stewardship emphasis, is underway. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church. Use the QR code to the right to make your pledge today! As of December 19, we have received 93 pledges totaling \$831,140.



End-of-year giving: Please continue to be faithful to your financial stewardship commitment. Your generous support toward this year's budget will allow us to end the year with a solid base on which to begin 2025. Year-end contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31.

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 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 • December 29–January 5

Sunday, December 29

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
 JBC worship (227)

Monday, December 30

Clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, December 31

First Night activities (sanctuary)

Wednesday, January 1

Church office closed

Thursday, January 2

7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, January 5

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
 JBC worship (227)
5:00 Youth choir (choir 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

99 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

(919) 832-4485 x201 Fax: (919) 832-6726 www.fbcraleigh.org

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.