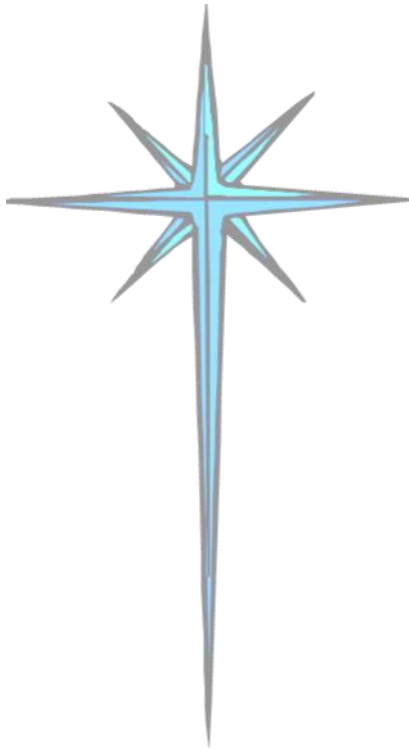


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 2, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 2, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, a season when we celebrate and ponder God's revelation of light and love to the entire world. While all the texts deal with calling, the reading from Luke continues the narrative of Jesus' calling and how people respond to it. The fact that his concern, like God's, extends to all people — that is, the entire world — creates tension with people in his hometown. Jesus is thinking new thoughts which makes it difficult for him to be accepted at home. The sermon explores the implications of this narrative for us, we pray for a world where too many still do not receive enough light and love, and we sing praises to the God whose love will not be bound by anything. We conclude worship with communion, an experience of God's presence and a reminder that we have a covenantal bond with God and each other, as well as a calling to share love with the world.

* * * * *

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

"Simple Gifts"
Jan Sanborn

Beth McCollum, violin

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Based upon Psalm 71

LEADER: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

PEOPLE: We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.

LEADER: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

PEOPLE: Give God glory for the power of love, the God of our salvation.

LEADER: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb.

PEOPLE: In love, we are created, and in love we are redeemed. Sing praise to God!

*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

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Jeff Hobart

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” ⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Love Is Little”
Shaker Song

Sanctuary Choir

Love is little, love is low, love will make my spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light, love will do the thing that’s right.

South Union Shaker Village, Kentucky, 1834

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

Luke 4:21–30

²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”

²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, And I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the phar-i-see, But
 3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame: The
 4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black; It's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; †



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I
 they would not dance, and they would-n't fol-low me; I
 ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev-il on your back. They
 I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll



came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth; At
 danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And
 bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone; But
 live in you if you'll live in me: †



Beth-le-hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a Cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the



Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher-



ev-er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Why Jesus Can’t Go Home Again and We Can’t Either”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

“Jesus Took the Cup”

Beth McCollum, violin

Music: Scottish Trad.

Words: Hal. H. Hopson, 1993

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, 717

LONDONDERRY AIR

“Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing”

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

“Sortie on SIMPLE GIFTS”

Maureen Howell

Martin Ellis

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jeff Hobart. A 32-year member, Jeff coordinates the Landscape Team and is a teacher for the 7th and 8th grader Sunday School class. He is married to Holly Cook and has two grown children, Leigh and Keller.

The pulpit parament today was commissioned by the Hager family and features Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager's two favorite flowers: magnolia and mountain laurel. The parament has been donated by the Hagers to FBC for use in the Artful Giving Ministry which benefits the Day Mission Fund. A donation has been made today in memory of both Joy, whose birthday is Feb 4, and her father Dr. Graham Crutchfield, by the Hager family.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the January 25 birth of Merritt Anders Reed, son of Leah and Chad and brother of Jennings.

Sympathy to Kay and Sam Ewell on the January 27 death of their daughter, Liz Ewell; to Warren Howell on the January 29 death of his father, Don Howell; and to Alan Tuttle on the January 24 death of his wife, Beverly.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

We invite you to bring in cans of soup next Sunday, February 9, for *Souper Bowl Sunday*, our February mission project to benefit the Urban Ministries food pantry. There will be collection wagons in the Lewis Lobby on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings between now and then. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Join us for a churchwide winter/ski retreat February 14–16 at Pipestem State Park in West Virginia. While the majority of folks will be skiing, there are plenty of activities for non-skiers. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details and a link/QR code to sign up.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation information about scheduled activities will be noted on a recorded greeting obtained by calling the office at 919-832-4485. Information will also be supplied to WRAL-TV (1st Baptist, Salisbury St), WTVD-TV (First Baptist Church-Salisbury St) and posted on our home page and on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

136 stewardship cards totaling \$1,168,260 have been received. Your gift matters! Please return your stewardship card to the church, or you may pledge online (www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship), or use the QR code to the right.



Centerpoint: Wednesday, February 5; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, we will conclude our exploration of the lives of women in the early church, led by Dr. Judy Yakes Siker, which was postponed due to inclement weather on January 22.

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 for February 5 is: chicken and dumplings with mixed vegetables. non-meat option: mock chicken and dumplings; kids: nuggets.

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.



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 • February 2–9

Sunday, February 2

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 4:30 Toy Joy wrap-up meeting (conference room)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

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

Sunday, February 9

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:15 Buddy mission project (children's suite)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

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.