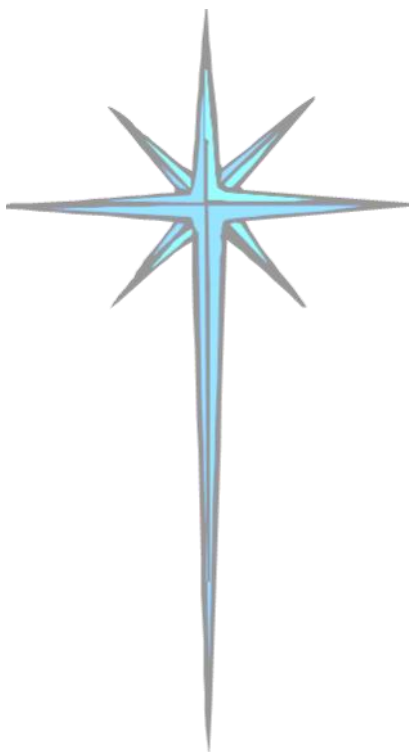


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 12, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 12, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Baptism of the Lord in the Christian year, a central story in the Epiphany collection of beginning stories, and the day we remember Jesus' baptism and consider its implications for our lives. The service music, prayers, and liturgy are filled with images of water and transformation, as we are baptized into not only water but an entirely new way of justice and love. The sermon reflects on the place of baptism in the contemporary church — what this says about our view of faith in general, and what might be at stake in a recovery of the original value of the sacred ritual. In baptism, we follow Jesus in a distinctive way of life, and we receive a blessing that is like no other.

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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

"Wade in the Water"  
Chuck Marohnic, arr.

Maureen Howell

The Anthem

"Wade in the Water"  
Max V. Exner, arr.

Grade-School Choir  
Rhonda Lowe, dir.  
Meg Foster, solo

Wade in the water, children. God's gonna trouble the water.  
See that band all dressed in white! The leader looks like the Israelite.  
Wade in the water, children. God's gonna trouble the water.  
See that band all dressed in red! It must be the band that Moses led.

Words and Music: African American Spiritual

The Call to Worship

based upon Psalm 29

LEADER: Come, thou Fount of every blessing;

PEOPLE: **tune my heart to sing thy grace;**

LEADER: streams of mercy, never ceasing,

PEOPLE: **call for songs of loudest praise.**

LEADER: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

PEOPLE: **The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.**

LEADER: The Son of God is named, “Beloved.”

PEOPLE: **And all who worship shout out, “Glory!”**

LEADER: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

PEOPLE: **Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 45

NETTLETON

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 43:1–7

Anne Bullard

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Acts 8:14–17

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Reflection, 297 “Spirit of the Living God”  
(Stanza 1)

IVERSON

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

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Sanctuary Choir

David Cherwien, arr.

Becky Mercer, flute

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see  
all people’s dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace  
as all the world in wonder echoes ‘shalom.’*

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread  
and children’s dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes.

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes.

Words: Mary Louise Bringle, 2002

Music: *TEMPLE OF PEACE*, William P. Rowan, 2000

The Gospel

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on  
 A - ris - ing from the riv - er, he saw the heav - ens torn;  
 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
 It seemed the sky, so o - pen, re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe and slave,  
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard:



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my Child, my heart, my choice."  
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

The Sermon

"A Better Question"

Christopher Chapman

## 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”

## 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

“Wade in the Water”  
William Farley Smith, arr.

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Anne Bullard. A 39-year member of First Baptist, Anne serves as a co-teacher for The Journey class, a *First Foundations* magazine contributor, and a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Anne and her husband Matt have two adult children, Catherine and Madison.

Caroline and Lauren Hobson are our Bible bearer and acolyte today.

The sponsorship of the floral banner to benefit the Day Mission Fund is given by the Wade family to celebrate the growing family of Leah Reed while she continues to provide leadership within our community.

Sympathy to Margaret Clary in the December 31 death of her sister Eunice.

Mark your calendar for the following 2025 dates for church conference: January 29, February 26, March 26, May 28, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19, and December 17.

Please join us on Saturday, January 18, for the National Day of Racial Healing community dialogue, beginning at 8am in the fellowship hall with a continental breakfast followed by a keynote speaker and small group breakout sessions. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information and a link to sign up.

On January 19, there will be a special optional Sunday School session in the fellowship hall with Lizzy Garcia, the director of Aprende Conmigo, the community learning center operated by Sharefish in El Carrizo, Honduras. All Sunday School classes are welcome to join.

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).

*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 January 9, we have received 118 pledges totaling \$1,042,760.



Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 15; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. During January, our program will be a Bible-study series led by Dr. Judy Yakes Siker: *Women in Early Christianity: Stories You've Never Heard*. Recent scholarship has given us new and intriguing tales about a variety of early Christian women (e.g., Thecla, Perpetua, Felicitas) whose stories are not contained in the New Testament. Join us on January 15 and 22 as we continue to explore some of these stories and expand our understanding of the development of Christianity and the roles of women in the early church. Dr. Siker, a graduate of Meredith College with a Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill, is an ordained minister and serves as a parish associate at White Memorial Presbyterian Church.



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 for January 15 is: beef stroganoff and green beans; non-meat option: mock beef stroganoff; kids: buttered noodles.

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 • January 12–19

### Sunday, January 12

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 2:00 Baby shower for Baby Reed (301/302)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

### Monday, January 13

- Clothing ministry closed
- 8:30 Clothing ministry volunteer meeting (301/302)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### Tuesday, January 14

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

### Wednesday, January 15

- 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, January 16

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

### Saturday, January 18

- 8:00 Day of Racial Healing community dialogue (fellowship hall)

### Sunday, January 19

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

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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](http://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.*