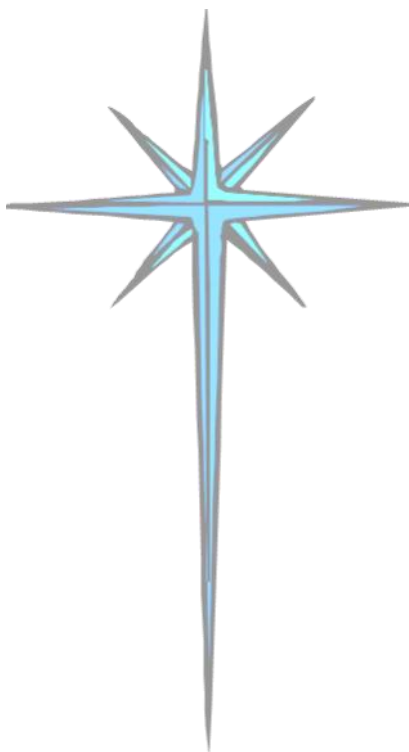


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 19, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 19, 2025

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, part of a season in which we reflect on the manifestation of light and love to the world through Christ. The texts include the familiar story of Jesus' first miracle or sign in John, the changing of water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It is a story that functions as metaphor for the joyful abundance God will bring in Jesus, but it also contains an awkward exchange between Jesus and his mother, one in which he seems reluctant to help. The sermon will explore this theme of divine reluctance in the context of joyful abundance as we sing songs of hopeful longing and pray for God's realm to come in full. All of this seems appropriate for the weekend our nation celebrates the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who spoke of the moral arc of the universe being long but bending toward justice (a quote of nineteenth-century abolitionist and Unitarian minister Theodore Parker).

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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

"Voluntary on an English Melody"

Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell, arr.

The Call to Worship

based upon Psalm 36

LEADER: How precious is the steadfast love of God.

PEOPLE: **All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace.**

LEADER: Christ is the fountain of life.

PEOPLE: **In Christ we behold the Light of God.**

ALL: **O Light from above, bring your salvation to all the earth.**

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

“Heavenly Light”

Sanctuary Choir

Alexander Kopylov

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given  
on great and small to shine, O Light Divine!  
May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!  
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!  
All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!  
O shine from above, Divine Light of love!  
Show us the way unto our God, we pray.  
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be.  
Light Divine, we praise Thee.

Music: Russian, Peter J. Whilhousky, arr.

Words: Slavonic, Vespers Service, Alice Mattullath, tr. 1937

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 62:1-5

Mary Powell Rhodes

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. <sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. <sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Litany of Writings (responsive)

LEADER: In 1963 Dr. King said, “that the ultimate measure of humankind is never where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy.”

PEOPLE: **God give us courage to be counted among those who will work for justice.**

LEADER: In 1963 Dr. King challenged southern white clergy by saying, “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.”

PEOPLE: **God transform our stillness into action and our fear into courage.**

LEADER: From the teachings of Jesus, Thoreau, and Gandhi, Dr. King taught us that nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon because it “cuts without wounding and ennobles the one who wields it. Nonviolence is a sword that heals.”

PEOPLE: **God heal our world through the works of our hands.**

LEADER: Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King said that “unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. Right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

PEOPLE: **God strengthen us to trust and abide in the power of your goodness.**

LEADER: To the wealthiest nation in the world, in 1967 Dr. King offered an inclusive solution to the problems of poverty and racism: “a radical restructuring of the architecture of American society.”

PEOPLE: **God rearrange our priorities that all may receive in equal measure.**

LEADER: And on the day before his death, Dr. King gave voice to the meaning of his vocation: “I just want to do God’s will.”

PEOPLE: **God call willing prophets out from this community to do your will on earth.**

## 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

John 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. In sim - ple signs we find God's grace: A heal - ing  
 2. In hu - man flesh, born weak and poor, Christ shows the  
 3. In hum - ble form, not grasp - ing might, not gird - ed  
 4. In dy - ing things, God breathes new life so peace can



hand, a gen - tle face, the love - less loved, the hun - gry  
 way through heav - en's door, to realms not lost in clouds a -  
 for an ep - ic fight, but as a ser - vant, free from  
 grow from times of strife and hope en - dure through pain and



fed, a cup of wine, a piece of bread.  
 bove, but found where peo - ple live in love.  
 pride, the Son of God is glo - ri - fied.  
 loss, as love pre - vails be - yond the cross.

Words: Adam L. Tice, 2012  
 Music: Traditional English melody

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“The Troubling Reality of Divine Reluctance”

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 Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

Sanctuary Choir

Allen Pote

Many gifts, one spirit. Many songs, one voice.  
Many reasons, one promise. Many questions, one choice.  
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.  
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.  
O God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.  
Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand  
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.  
Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul  
into the beauty of a rainbow, give us life, Lord. Make us whole.

Words: Allen Pote, 1986

\*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFRUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow’r uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt.

## 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

“Trumpet Tune in G”

Maureen Howell

David Lasky

\*The congregation may stand.

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## Calendar Highlights • January 19–26

### 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)

### Monday, January 20

- Church office and clothing ministry closed (MLK, Jr. holiday)
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### Tuesday, January 21

- 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 22

- 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)  
Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

### Thursday, January 23

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Taverna Agora, 326 Hillsborough St)

### Sunday, January 26

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ordination (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir workshop and supper (choir room & 301)

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The Litany of Writings is used by permission of the author, the Reverend Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., Dr. Chapman's former colleague in Winston-Salem who now serves as the first Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

The Deacon on Call is Mary Powell Rhodes. A 47-year member, Mary Powell is chair and council rep of the Hospitality Committee, serves on the Community Ministries committee, and volunteers in the clothing ministry. She is also co-chair of the Prayer Circle via Email and a member of the Prayer Shawl Group, the Evening Bells, and Pathfinders Class. Mary Powell and her husband Bob have two grown children, Sarah Catherine Rhodes and J.D. Rhodes.

Our thanks to Chad Reed, guitar, and Becky Mercer, flute, for sharing their musical gifts.

Our offering helper is Thomas Archer, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

The pulpit parament is sponsored today by Robert and Jan Ponton in memory of Robert's mother, Elizabeth H. Chamblee. A donation is being made to the Day Mission Fund.

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.

If you have been issued a pass card for access to the church outside working hours and it no longer works, please contact Deborah Mastrodonato ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)) to sign out a new card. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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 16, we have received 120 pledges totaling \$1,053,920.



Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 22; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. We conclude our Bible study series led by Dr. Judy Yakes Siker: *Women in Early Christianity: Stories You've Never Heard.*

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 22 is: breakfast for dinner.

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.



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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.*