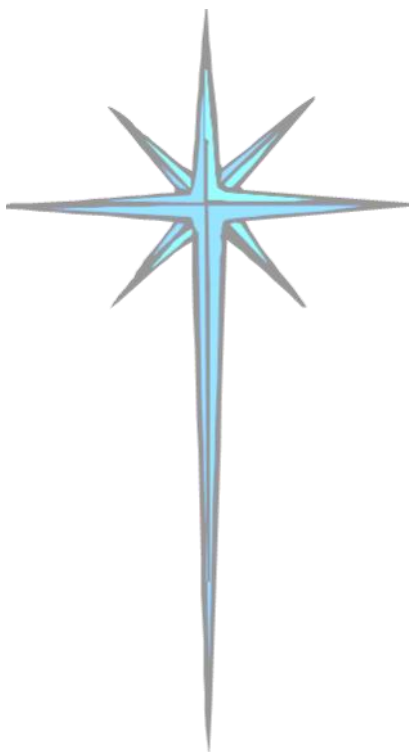


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 26, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 26, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we reflect on the meaning of God's manifestation of light and love for the whole world. We continue to read texts connected to the beginning of Jesus' life and ministry, considering his return to his hometown of Nazareth during which he reads a passage of scripture and then proclaims that its vision is fulfilled in him. This passage from Luke and the reading from 1 Corinthians provide helpful clues about the nature of our ministry in church, as we seek to follow Jesus in our shared life and witness. These clues apply to the whole church, but they apply even more forcefully to key leaders like deacons, two of whom we ordain today. The sermon reflects on some of these clues, as we pray for those who serve and a world in need of service, and sing praises to the God who continues to dwell among us, bringing light and love.

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

"Voluntary on BEACH SPRING"
Janet Linker

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

LEADER: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

PEOPLE: God calls us to be builders as well.

LEADER: God calls us to build our lives:

PEOPLE: to restore broken places and continue to grow.

LEADER: God calls us to build our faith:

PEOPLE: to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

LEADER: God calls us to build our community:

PEOPLE: to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.

LEADER: God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises
of Scripture:

**PEOPLE: to preach the good news of God's love and liberation
for all people.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 701

"God Is Here!"

BEECHER

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Dennis Ellis

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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

“Stay with Us”
Egil Hovland

Sanctuary Choir

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.
Stay with us, it soon is evening.
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us,
it soon is evening and night is falling.
Jesus Christ, the world's true light!
Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it!
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening.
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.
Let your light pierce the darkness
and fill your church with its glory.

Words: Gracia Grindal, 1999, based upon Luke 24:29,
and *Phos hilaron* (4th c. Greek Hymn)

The Gospel

Luke 4:14–21

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“A Beginning Place for Deacon Ministry and the Church”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Call to Commitment (responsive)

LEADER: These are the persons whom you have asked to be your deacons. Do you have anything to say to them?

PEOPLE: **We want to say that we hold you and your office in the highest esteem. We did not take lightly our choice of you. We do not take lightly our desire to have you lead us with courage, conviction, and compassion.**

DEACONS: *We are honored and humbled by this display of your confidence in our capacity to be servants of this people. We pledge to you that we will be responsible bearers of this trust.*

PEOPLE: **We charge you to give unselfishly to the wellbeing of our church. Be interpreters of our ministry to one another, to this community, and to the world. Be prophets, call us back to the hard truth we would sometimes rather forget. Be pastors to us in our sickness and sorrow. Be friends to us in times of stress and indecision.**

DEACONS: *By the grace of God, with your support and encouragement, we will do our best.*

LEADER: Are you, the congregation, willing to give yourselves, in cooperation and in fellowship, to these persons and to all others who have special responsibilities in the church?

PEOPLE: **We will work together, as we work with God, in the most exciting mission in the world: the developing of Christian community.**

ALL: ***Then, may God bless the work we do together. Amen.***

The Invitation to the Ritual

The Presentation of the Ordinands

Marianna Burnette, Adam Harker

The Laying-on of Hands

(Any who wish to do so are invited to come forward and offer a brief sentence-prayer of blessing for each candidate.)

The Ordination Prayer

Kimberly Taylor

The Presentation of Certificates

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

BEACH SPRING

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who did on the Cross forsaken, show us mercy's perfect deed;
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart:
Consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light,
Till the height and depth and greatness dawns upon our human sight:
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to faithful service, your abundant life to share.**

**Called from worship into service forth in your great name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give
That your children, Lord, in freedom, may your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1961

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

“Exultate Deo”
Robert Hebble

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

Calendar Highlights • January 26–February 2

Sunday, January 26

- 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)

Monday, January 27

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 5:30 Deacons' meeting (301/302 & Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (Blue Room)

Tuesday, January 28

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven board meeting (conference room)

Wednesday, January 29

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (307/311)
- 6:15 Church conference (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, January 30

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

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)

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The Call to Commitment is adapted from *The Worshiping Church*.

The Deacon on Call is Dennis Ellis. A 33-year member of First Baptist, Dennis is the president of Baptist Men. He teaches the Grade 6 Sunday School class and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Dennis and his wife Diane have four children and ten grandchildren.

Cece and Jennifer Bissette are our acolytes this morning.

Today's pulpit parament is sponsored by Joe, Cece, Hannah and Gordon Middleton, and David Burris in loving memory of Allen and Jane Burris. A donation is being made to the Day Mission Fund.

There is an opening on February 16 for a sponsorship of the pulpit parament or flowers. Please contact Myra Brickell (myrabrickell@gmail.com) with your interest.

Sign up now for Salt Shakers 2025! Email Jessica Helms (jessica.brickell.helms@gmail.com) by January 31 to be assigned to dinner groups which will meet on four dates throughout the year. This is a great way to get to know people at the church! See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

We invite you to bring in cans of soup on 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).

133 stewardship cards totaling \$1,153,660 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.



Church conference: Wednesday, January 29; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for Zoom link and documents.

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 January 29 is: sweet and sour meatballs with macaroni and cheese and baby carrots; non-meat option: mock meatballs.

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.



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.