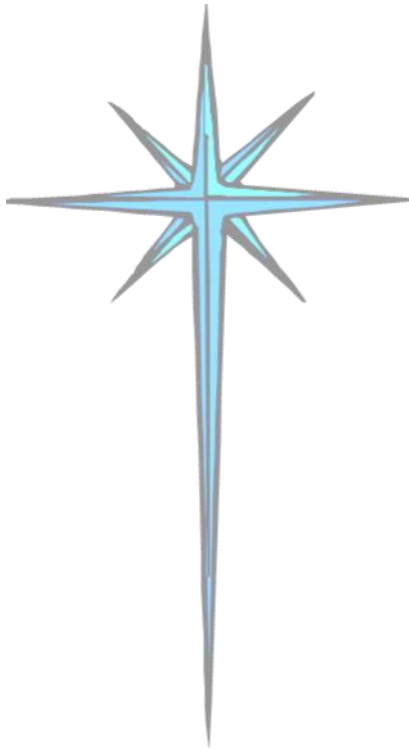


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 5, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 5, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today we celebrate Epiphany, technically January 6. It is the oldest celebration of Christ's beginning, dating to the late second century. The word means "appearance" or "manifestation" and refers to the manifestation of God's love in Christ to the whole world. This celebration originally marked Christ's birth, Jesus' baptism, and his first miracle in Cana. The Western church later added the story about the visitation of Magi from the East which has become central to our celebration. We celebrate today by singing glorious hymns of praise, reading texts that describe the universal nature of God's love, and considering some major themes of our faith found in the reading from Matthew. We see here signs that point to the trajectory of Jesus' life and ministry and the calling each of us receives from him.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

"We Three Kings"
Diane Bish, arr.

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

based upon Isaiah 60:1-6

LEADER: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

PEOPLE: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

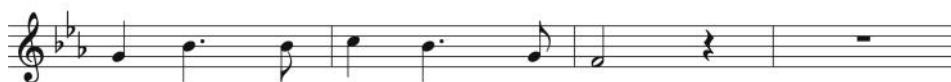
LEADER: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

PEOPLE: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

The Invocation



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.
 2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.
 3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.
 4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,
 Join the tri - umph of the skies.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew-drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 60:1–6

Ann Cobb

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year”

Sanctuary Choir

Alfred Fedak

Now greet the swiftly changing year
With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.
This Jesus came to end sin's war,
This Name of names for us he bore.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.
His love abundant far exceeds
The volume of a whole year's needs.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.
With Him as Lord to lead our way
In want or prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space
In this new year of grace?
"All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

Words: Jaroslav Vajda, 1969, alt.

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.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 27 “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

PUER NOBIS

The Sermon

“Reclaiming Epiphany”

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.



1. Wise ones, called to jour - ney on,
 2. Sa - cred star with stead - y beams
 3. Ra - diant Christ of peace and might
 4. God of sag - es, star, and child,



seek - ing truth and trust - ing signs,
 bright - 'ning path - ways sure and sound,
 breach - ing bar - riers with your birth,
 draw us forth in faith and doubt,



lead us when our hope is gone,
 send us bold and right - eous dreams,
 bring de - liv - 'rance and de - light,
 try - ing roads well - known and wild,



show us where God's prom - ise shines.
 steer us where God's grace is found.
 rouse us with your pow'r on earth.
 light with - in us and with - out.



Stead - fast el - ders, through the miles
 Brill - iant guide, as - cend a - head,
 Je - sus, break like dawn with - in;
 Ho - ly One, we're bound a - stray;



give us strength in tests and trials.
 change our course as we are led.
 may a bright new day be - gin.
 teach us how to find our way.

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

“Walk in the Light”
Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, arr.

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

* * * * *

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The Deacon on Call is Ann Cobb. A 29-year member, Ann participates in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, volunteers with the Funeral Committee, and is a substitute church office assistant. Ann is married to Britt Cobb.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Audrey and Tom Bray by their children, Angela and Tommy Bray.

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.

Sympathy to Suzanne Sanford on the December 25 death of her brother, Samuel Ernest Cain, Jr.

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.

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 31, we have received 112 pledges totaling \$980,160.



Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 8; 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 8, 15, and 22 as we 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), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for January 8 is: chicken fried rice with veggies; non-meat option: mock chicken fried rice; kids: egg roll .

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 5–12

Sunday, January 5

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

Monday, January 6

- Clothing ministry closed
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

- 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 9

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

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)

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.