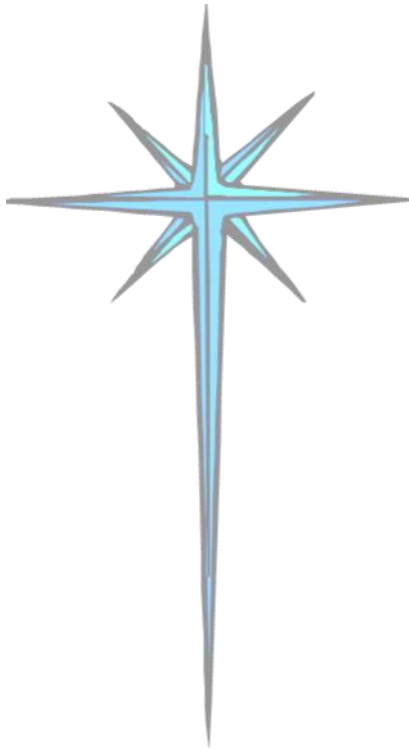


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 16, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we celebrate God's manifestation of light and love to the whole world. Three of today's texts address the consequences of our varied responses to God's light and love wherein blessings come to the faithful and curses or woes come to the those who are not faithful. We tend to celebrate the first response and ignore the second but to our own detriment and that of the world. The sermon explores ways to overcome our resistance to hearing bad or difficult news about ourselves, as we pray for a world that needs to hear both the good news and the bad and sing praises to the God who loves us as we are and calls us to become more in the context of grace.

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

"Aria on a Chaconne"
Joel Martinson

Eddie Abernathy

The Call to Worship

based on Psalm 1

LEADER: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

PEOPLE: **but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night.**

LEADER: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

PEOPLE: **In all that they do, they prosper.**

LEADER: The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff that the wind drives away,

PEOPLE: **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

LEADER: but the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

PEOPLE: **Let us praise the Lord.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 77 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Jay Carothers

⁵Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

“King of Glory, King of Peace”

K. Lee Scott

Sanctuary Choir

LaCount Anderson, dir.

King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me.
Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll Thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol Thee.

Words: George Herbert, 1633

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you,
revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice
in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in
heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their
ancestors did to the false prophets.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 121

QUEBEC

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

The Sermon

“Bad News First”

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, 669

CWM RHONDDA

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Elegiac Prelude”
Gerald Bales

Eddie Abernathy

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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!**

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

“Prelude on HYFRYDOL”
Healey Willan

Eddie Abernathy

*The congregation may stand.

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Our thanks to LaCount Anderson and to our organist, Eddie Abernathy, for leading us in worship today.

The Deacon on Call is Jay Carothers. A 31-year member, Jay serves on the Nominating Committee and is a greeter and a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. He and his wife Janie have two children, Claire and Parker.

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

The pulpit parament is sponsored by LaCount and Anna Anderson in honor of their new grandson, Merritt Anders Reed, born on January 25. A donation is made to the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund.

Please keep the 19 people returning from the ski trip in your prayers.

Mark your calendar now for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 4 at 5:30pm! Come and join us for a festive meal before we begin the season of Lent. We will have pancakes, music, mask-making, games, and fellowship around the supper table. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for registration link and payment details (or use QR code on next page to pay online). Please make sure you register as well as pre-pay!

The youth request that you donate fresh fruits and veggies (produce that can be prepped and consumed raw) for their Sunday night suppers. We'll have a cooler by the Lewis Lobby display case where you can drop items on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. We'd like the kids to have fresh fruit and veggies every Sunday night and would greatly appreciate your help with that!

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).

138 stewardship cards totaling \$1,172,460 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 19; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, we will conclude our programming on Black History Month by looking at a speech given by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. More information and a link to the TED Talk can be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

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 19 is: chicken bbq with corn pudding and green beans; non-meat option: mock chicken bbq; kids: pizza rolls.

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 16–23

Sunday, February 16

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

Monday, February 17

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, February 18

- 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 19

- 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, February 20

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Meadow Restaurant, Benson)
- 5:30 Adult Ministries Council meeting (Google)

Sunday, February 23

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 2:00 Girls' basketball championship game (Trinity Baptist Church)
- 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

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.