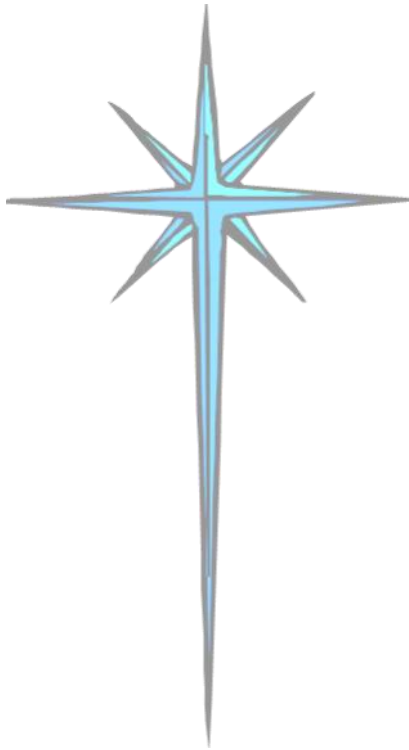


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 23, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we celebrate God's manifestation of light and love to the whole world. Our texts address our calling to love as God has loved, as in all people, even those who harm us, including our enemies. It is easier to sing praises to a God capable of such love than to attempt to follow the Divine calling in our lives, but we are called to do both. So, we lift up our songs of praise, we ponder ways in which we might grow in our love, and we pray for a world that needs an alternative to isolation, hostility, and vengeance.

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

"Now the Green Blade Rises"
Samuel Wellman

Maureen Howell

The Introit

"Sing a Song of Praise"
Allen Pote

Grade-School Choir

Sing a song to the Lord. Lift your voices high, let your praises fill the sky.
Come along, sing a song. Come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let our hearts be filled with love and joy as we celebrate the gifts we share.
Let our lives be blessed with happiness as we give, as we care.
Sing, O sing to the rock of our salvation.
Come and worship the Ruler of all.
Bow before God, the Lord of all creation,
O give thanks and bless God's name.

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 37

Christopher Chapman

LEADER: Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

PEOPLE: **Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.**

LEADER: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 26 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Jen Foster

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation singing stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 Choir: 3. Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain;



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Words: John M. Crum, 1928, alt
 Music: French carol, 15th c.

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.**

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Love Divine”

Sanctuary Choir

Howard Goodall

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav’n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

“How Can We Hear This Teaching?”

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

“God, How Can We Forgive?”

LEONI



1. God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994

Music: Jewish melody, 17th c. adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

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

“Now the Green Blade Rises”
Mark Sedio

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

* * * * *

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Now the Green Blade Rises*, Samuel Wellman © 1993 McKinney Music, Inc.; *Sing a Song of Praise*, Allen Pote © 1977 Choristers Guild; *Now the Green Blade Rises*, Words: John M. C. Crum © 1928 Oxford University Press; *Love Divine*, Music: Howard Goodall © ; *Love Divine*, Words: Charles Wesley, 1747, Public Domain, Music: Howard Goodall © 2000 Faber Music Ltd.; *God, How Can We Forgive*, words: Ruth Duck © 1996 The Pilgrim Press; *Now the Green Blade Rises*, Mark Sedio © 1996 Augsburg Fortress.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Deacon on Call is Jen Foster. A 24-year member, Jen is a member of the Journey Sunday School class and serves on the Student Ministries Council and the ministry team that publishes the *First Foundations* magazine. She and her husband Derek have three children: Jay, Luke, and Meg.

Today's pulpit parament is sponsored by Dr. Charles and Jamie Petty in honor of the homeless guests who benefit from First Baptist's White Flag ministry, and every volunteer who supports it. A donation will be made to the Day Mission Fund.

Sympathy to family of Pat Davis, who died February 15, to Michael Hood on the February 16 death of his grandmother, Dolores Sauls Hood, and to Donelle Reynolds on the February 18 death of her father, Jacob Burl Sain.

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).


Church conference: Wednesday, February 26; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for Zoom link and meeting 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 February 26 is: Mexican night: soft tacos, black beans, rice, and corn. non-meat option: mock beef.

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 23–March 2

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)

Monday, February 24

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, February 25

- 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 26

- 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, February 27

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

Sunday, March 2

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:00 RA car race (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Handbell rehearsal (302)
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.