

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 16, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16, 2025

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: On this Second Sunday in Lent, we begin with the celebration of baptism and end with the collection of an offering, two ritual practices that underscore the blessings of God and our response of faithful commitment. We read texts that point to the way of the cross and the specific responsibilities incumbent upon those who claim citizenship in God's realm. The sermon explores these responsibilities as we offer prayers of gratitude and confession and sing hymns and anthems of praise and devotion.

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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

"Fairest Lord Jesus"  
Kurt Kaiser

Lauren Dunseath, cello

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: God tells Abram not to be afraid, God will shield him, and his reward will be great.

PEOPLE: **God claims us through baptism and calls us to embrace our status as beloved children.**

LEADER: We live in this world, but our citizenship is in heaven.

PEOPLE: **We are surrounded by fear and division, but we are defined by love and peace.**

LEADER: We are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life.

PEOPLE: **We stand firm in this new way and offer praise to the God who shapes it.**

The Celebration of Baptism

Jay Michael Foster

The Prayer of Blessing and Commitment

\*The Hymn of Praise, 60

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”  
*(Stanzas 1 & 2)*

FAITHFULNESS

### CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession (responsive)

LEADER: We have been faced by inevitable trials,

**PEOPLE: and we have shut our eyes in denial.**

LEADER: But blessed are those who strive for righteousness.

**PEOPLE: Lest we slump into complacency . . .**

LEADER: Lest we cease to care . . .

**PEOPLE: Lest we are not disturbed . . .**

LEADER: Bring us the blessing of renewed desire.

**PEOPLE: Make us hungry again for your way.**

LEADER: Blighted are those who are never disturbed.

**PEOPLE: But blessed are those who strive for righteousness.**

The Prayer of Confession

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise (Hymn 60)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”  
*(Stanza 3)*

FAITHFULNESS

### LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Anthem of Illumination

“This Little Light of Mine”  
Ken Berg, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I’m going to let it shine.

All through the night, I’m going to let it shine.

Music and Words: African-American Spiritual

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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 Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 213

HAMBURG

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"Honoring Our Primary Citizenship"

## 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

“We’re Citizens of Heaven”

MERLE’S TUNE

**We're citizens of heaven; we know where we belong.  
O God, your love surrounds us; we sing your kingdom song.  
The grace of Christ transforms us; in him our life is found;  
We sing with joy and gladness, for we are heaven-bound.**

**We're citizens of heaven here in an earthly home;  
Lord, it can be a challenge to live as you have shown.  
With loyalties divided, we wonder what to do —  
To follow wealth and power, or bravely follow you?**

**We're citizens of heaven; renew our sense of call.  
Lord, deepen our commitment to serve you over all.  
For we are your creation; by grace, we are your own.  
Forgive our sinful wanderings and bring your people home.**

**Lord, give your church the courage to love and serve you more —  
To worship you more gladly, to welcome in the poor,  
To pardon as you pardon, to give in all we do —  
That, heaven-bound, your people may daily live for you.**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2013

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

\*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Cantique de Jean Racine”

Sanctuary Choir

Gabriel Fauré

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation,  
Eternal Light of the earth and sky, On this, thy holy day,  
We kneel in adoration; O Savior turn on us thy loving eye.  
Send down on us the fire of thy grace all-consuming,  
whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,  
and rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all illumining,  
that they may waken thy mercy to tell.  
O Christ, bestow thy blessing unto us, we implore thee,  
who here are gathered on penitent knee.  
Accept the hymns we chant to thine eternal glory,  
and these, thy gifts we return unto thee.

Words: Jean Racine, 1688; Harold Heiberg, tr., 1952

\*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

A Lenten Doxology

Words: G.W. Shepherd, 2006

## 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

“Postlude on OLD HUNDREDTH”

Maureen Howell

Fred Bock

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Call to Prayer adapted from *Unfolding the Living Word: New Kyries, Canticles, Gospel Acclamations and Collects for Holy Communion* © 2012 Jim Cotter, Published by Canterbury Press.

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The Deacon on Call is Jason Gardner. A ten-year member, Jason serves on the Board of Trustees and is on the Food Trailer Board. He is also the Adult Sunday School director and a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. Jason and his wife Kati have two children.

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

Today's pulpit parament is sponsored by Myra and Sterling Brickell in honor of Joan Speir, the connection that caused the Brickells to become members of FBC.

Sympathy to the family of Carolyn Smith, who died March 7.

Come play basketball with your church friends during *FBC March Madness* at Lake Lynn Community Center March 23 and 30. All ages and skill levels are welcome to join. Please contact Michael Hood ([mhood@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:mhood@fbcraleigh.org)) if you'd like to play either day.

Join us March 28 and 29 for a Gaddy Series event when we will hear from historian/writer/speaker Kristin Kobes Du Mez, professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University and the author of *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. Friday includes dinner at 6pm and a presentation at 7pm. Saturday begins with a continental breakfast at 9am and a second presentation at 10am. Childcare will be provided; please contact Lynn Lingafelt ([llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org)) no later than Sunday, March 16 to register. Use the QR code to the right to register for the meal, and then pay via Paypal or Vanco (use first QR code on following page), pay at the kiosk, or submit a check with "Gaddy Meal" in the memo line. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information.





Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 19; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, Michael Hood will present "What To Do the Next Time You Get Hit by a Cannonball," an exploration of Ignatian Spirituality. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details!

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 March 19 is: cornbread and beef casserole with potatoes and broccoli; non-meat option: non-meat casserole; kids: nuggets.

Dennis Ellis is coordinating a Hurricane Helene recovery work trip in the Boone area through NC Baptists on Mission March 20–22. Men and women, skilled and unskilled, are welcome. Contact Dennis for more information and if you are interested.

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).

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 • March 16–23

### Sunday, March 16

- 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, March 17

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

### Tuesday, March 18

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

### Wednesday, March 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 (S)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

### Thursday, March 20

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Hibernian Pub, 311 Glenwood Ave)

### Sunday, March 23

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC/JBC joint worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 1:30 FBC March Madness (Lake Lynn Community Center gym)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

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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.*