

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 9, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the First Sunday in Lent, a season of penitence and reflection as we follow Jesus on a journey to the cross and empty tomb. Thus, we wear purple stoles, include prayers of confession, and read texts that guide us on this journey. Today we consider the traditional Lent 1 narrative of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, a familiar story yet one where it is easy to miss the point. We will seek to examine it with fresh eyes and consider the implications for our lives, as we sing songs of praise and lift up prayers for the world.

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

"Reflection on KINGSFOLD"
Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

PEOPLE: **The journey begins in the wilderness.**

LEADER: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

PEOPLE: **Like Jesus, we are not alone.
The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.**

LEADER: Our call is to trust in God alone,
to do God's will in all things.

PEOPLE: **For God leads us not only into the wilderness,
but also through the wilderness.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 66

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**O God, our refuge and fortress,
forgive us when we fail to trust in you.
We fall to temptation;
we are swayed by false words;
we speak false words of our own.
We choose our ease and comfort
over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world.
In turning from you,
we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend.
Forgive us, we pray.
Do not let us be put to shame, O God.
Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

**“For freedom, Christ has set us free!”
What joy is ours to claim!
No more enslaved, humanity
Finds life in Jesus’ name.
We try, Lord, to be justified
Through all the works we do.
Yet you adopt us, saying “Child,
It’s Christ who makes you new.”**

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2000
Tune: ELLACOMBE, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl.
Hofkapelle, Württemberg*, 1784

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Jerry Dudeck

¹When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b}"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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 Hymn of Devotion

KINGSFOLD

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”



Lord, who through - out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion - tide,



teach us, O Christ, to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.



As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
A - bide with us, till when this life with doubts and pain be past,



O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Words: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.

Tune: *English Country Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

The Gospel

Luke 4:1–13

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“You Do Not Walk Alone”

Elaine Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir

Sue Crocker, dir.

Beth McCollum, violin

May you see God’s light on the path ahead
when the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear, even in your hour sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.

May you always remember when the shadows fall,
you do not walk alone.

Words: Traditional Irish Blessing

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Trying Not To Miss the Point”

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, 538 “I Need Thee Every Hour”

NEED

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

“Trumpet Tune in C”

Maureen Howell

Alice Jordan

*The congregation may stand.

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In celebration of International Women's Day yesterday, The American Guild of Organists has established today as Woman Composer Sunday, joining an international effort to nurture and raise awareness of the contributions of women composers to music for the church after centuries of exclusion or gender inequity in the field. Our organist, Maureen Howell, is joining others around the world on this day by performing her own "Reflection on *KINGSFOLD*," awarded 1st place in the Short Work category by the American Guild of Organists in their 2025 Composition Contest.

The Deacon on Call is Jerry Dudeck. A 48-year member and first-term deacon, Jerry is a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School. He and his wife Catharine have two grown sons.

Our Bible bearer and acolyte this week are Rae and Will Sidner.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the March 6 birth of Bobby Allen Phillips, son of Hope and Brett and brother of Charlotte, June, Remi, and Colt.

Please keep the 16 youth and four chaperones returning today from the youth choir *Festival by the Sea* trip in your prayers.

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).

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 12; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, Dr. Brian Klausner, the medical director for WakeMed's Community Population Health program, will talk about the work he is doing to serve the medical needs of our downtown neighbors and his autobiography, *In the Gaps: Better Understanding the Expensive Human Suffering of Chronic Homelessness*. Books will be for sale for \$15 and proceeds will go towards non-profits working with the families moving into the new affordable housing complex King's Ridge in Raleigh.

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 March 12 is: pizza casserole with green beans and corn; non-meat option: non-meat casserole .

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 9–16

Sunday, March 9

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:00 GA Tea (fellowship hall)
Student Ministries Council meeting (Blue Room)

Monday, March 10

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

Tuesday, March 11

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)

Wednesday, March 12

- 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, March 13

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

Saturday, March 15

- 10:00 Children's Mission Day (HBBC)

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)

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.