

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 13, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem that is both celebratory and ominous, given all that will take place this week. As with all of Holy Week, there are many tensions, religious and political, the latter of which we often try to avoid but not to our benefit. The sermon will explore these political tensions that cannot be avoided, while looking to Jesus' strategy of turning all sensibilities upside down, as we sing praises to the God who conquers through a cross and pray for a world that needs the kind of transformation and transcendence the events of Holy Week make possible.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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

"Voluntary on TRURO"
J. Wayne Kerr

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 118

LEADER: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

PEOPLE: **This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

LEADER: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PEOPLE: **Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!**

LEADER: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

LEADER: The Lord is God, and has given us light.

PEOPLE: **Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

LEADER: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

PEOPLE: **O give thanks to the Lord, who is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The Introit

"Let All the Gates Be Opened Wide" Grade-School Choir
Johannes Brahms

Let all the gates be opened wide.
The King of kings is coming.
Let every voice be tuned to sing:
all earth rejoice, your joyful praises bring.
Sing hosanna!

Who is the King who enters in?
Who is this King who enters?
The one who comes is our God and King.
Let earth rejoice, your joyful praises bring.
Sing hosanna!

Words: based on Psalm 24:7-10

Music: Johannes Brahms, arranged by Hal H. Hopson, 1996

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Procession, 204

ST. THEODULPH

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

*[During the singing of this hymn, the children
will be presenting palms at the communion table.]*

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Our Confession this morning will be a responsive prayer. When you hear the leader speak the words below, you are invited to respond:

LEADER: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: Help us to walk along your path.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for -

giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Words and Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Mary Powell Rhodes

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

The Christian Testament

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

The Call to Prayer

“Lamb of God”

Sanctuary Choir

F. Melius Christiansen, arr.

Lamb of God most holy!
Who on the cross didst suffer,
patient, still, and lowly,
thyself to scorn didst offer;
our sins by Thee were taken,
or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

Words and Music: Nicolaus Decius, 1531, tr. Aurthur T. Russell

Music: O LAMM GOTTES, UNSHULDIG, German Chorale, 1540

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

"Lift Up Your Heads"

TRURO

1. Lift up your heads, you might - y gates; be - hold, the
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3. Re - deem - er, come, we o - pen wide our hearts to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
You; here, Lord, a - bide: Your in - ner pres - ence

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here!
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer, and love, and joy.
let us feel; Your grace and love in us re - veal.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the lyrics with a double bar line. The music is written in a simple, clear style, typical of hymn books.

Words: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855

Music: Thomas Willaims' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

“Blessed is the king
 who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Peace in heaven,
 and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates”
 William Mathias

Sanctuary Choir

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
 and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
 And the King of glory shall come in.
 Who is this King of glory?
 The Lord strong and mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
 Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors,
 And the King of glory shall come in.
 Who is this King of glory?
 The Lord of Hosts.
 He is the King of glory.

Words: *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928: Psalm 24:7-10

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Examining the Part of the Story We Try To Avoid”

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

MORNING SONG

“A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd”

**A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd
had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud,
waved branches in the air.**

**They laid their garments in the road
and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed
with royal hymns and psalms.**

**When day dimmed down to deep'ning dark
the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark
were left from the parade.**

**Lest we be fooled because our hearts
have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts
where Christ has fixed his gaze.**

**Instead of palms a winding sheet
will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet
the king a cross will hold.**

Words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Music, Part Second, 1813

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

“Toccata on ST. THEODULPH”
Michael Burkhardt

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Sarah Catherine Rhodes. A 27-year member, Sarah Catherine serves on the Weekday Preschool Council and is an assistant for the Grade-school Choir. She is a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School Class.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Thomas and Megan Archer.

The sanctuary flowers are placed in honor of all singers, past and present, in the Youth and Children's Choirs by Rhonda Lowe and Dennis Francis.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the April 4 birth of Brooke Belle, daughter of Kelly and Ryan Sanderford and granddaughter of Mary Nash and John Rusher.

Sympathy to the family of Bill Lewis, who died April 6 and to Noel Tucker, whose father, Wayne Jordan, died March 25.

We continue Holy Week this week with a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17, at 7pm. This service will include the celebration of communion. Next, for the first time in a number of years, we will have a Good Friday service on April 18 at noon with a lunch to follow (no reservations are necessary). Next Sunday is Easter, and you have two opportunities to worship and celebrate the resurrection: the Easter Sunrise Service at the Capitol at 6:30am (music begins at 6:20am; Dr Chapman is preaching; and music is led by Warren Howell, featuring a duet with Tom Childrey) and our worship service in the sanctuary at 11am.

Easter is April 20. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of Easter lilies for our sanctuary, with the remaining funds benefitting the Day Mission Fund. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes or on our website — must be received with payment by Wednesday, April 16.

Video recordings of the 2025 Gaddy Lectures with Kristin Kobes Du Mez are now on the members-only section of our website. Go to fbcraleigh.org/members_only/gaddy-lectures-2025/ to access the page to view them.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, April 16; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. In accordance with the timing of Holy Week, Dr. Barry Jones will speak with us in a program titled “Celebrating Holy Week with Respect for Judaism.”

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 April 16 is: breakfast for supper.

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 • April 13–20

Sunday, April 13 ***Palm Sunday***

- 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, April 14

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

Tuesday, April 15

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 6:45 Softball game (Millbrook Exchange Park)

Wednesday, April 16

- 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 (sanctuary)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, April 17 ***Maundy Thursday***

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 6:45 Softball game (Millbrook Exchange Park)
- 7:00 Maundy Thursday service (sanctuary)

Friday, April 18 ***Good Friday***

- 12:00 Good Friday service (sanctuary)
- 12:30 Good Friday lunch (fellowship hall)

Sunday, April 20 ***Easter***

- 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service (Capitol Square)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship and luncheon (301/302)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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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.