

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 11, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, a day in the liturgical calendar when shepherd imagery runs through the readings, emphasizing God's protective care of all God's children. It is also Mother's Day in our culture, which is not a bad coincidence, given the way mothers care for children. We are led by children in music today while the sanctuary choir sings a setting of Psalm 23 which forms the background for Jesus' words recorded in John 10. The sermon explores all this imagery, noting the significance of what Jesus says about himself and how this continues a perspective found in Jewish tradition. We depart with a renewed sense of gratitude for God's shepherd care and a heightened calling to reflect this manner of being in the way we care for one another.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

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

"I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light"

Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Alleluia, the Lord is risen!

PEOPLE: Blessing and honor is yours, O God.

LEADER: Guide us, Shepherding God, and wipe away all tears.

PEOPLE: Alleluia, the Lord is risen indeed.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 103

HANOVER

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Anthem

“We Are the Children of Light”

Gradeschool Choir

Hal H. Hopson

We are the children of light, for Christ is the light of the world.

We are one body. We are one hope. Join we together and sing.

We sing of those gone before us, whose faith has brought us this day,
the prophets, pastors, and teachers; yes, these have shown us The Way.

Yes, we are saints of the present, we add new notes to the song,
the past, the present, the future, now join united and strong.

Words and Music: Hal H. Hopson, 2000

The First Reading

Acts 9:36–43

Adam Harker

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Hymn of Devotion, 522

BRADBURY

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

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

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” Sanctuary Choir

Mack Wilberg, arr. Becky and Cady Mercer, flutes

My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name;
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake his ways,
And leads me for his mercy's sake
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,
Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.

Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
Oh, may Thy house be mine abode
And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest
While others go and come,
No more a stranger nor a guest;
But like a child at home.

Words: Psalm 23, Isaac Watts, para., 1719

Music: *Southern Harmony*, 1835

The Gospel

John 10:22–30

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Something Better Than Straight Answers”

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, 539

HOUSTON

“I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light”

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

“Recessional”

Maureen Howell

Thomas Berdos

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Adam Harker. A first-term deacon and a 13-year member, Adam and his wife Anza have two children, Ava and Nora.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Meg and Jay Foster.

Our pulpit parament today, sponsored by Joann Cooper, is dedicated to loving mothers who give of themselves sharing communication and learning, with limited hours but always with sunshine, and all the languages and cultures reflecting God's world at First Baptist.

Mark your calendar now for the annual church picnic — Wednesday, June 4, 5–7pm, at Pullen Park (shelter #4). See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Class of 2025, congratulations! If you are graduating from college, email Jennie Herrick (jherrick@fbcraleigh.org) by Friday, May 23, with the following information for our church's publications: graduate's name, college, degree, and your relationship to the graduate, and any family connections within our church.

VBS will be held June 23–27, 9am–12pm. More details in the *Rose Window Weekly*, as well as a registration form which you should submit to Lynn Lingafelt (llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org) no later than June 1. We also need decorating help! You don't have to be creative—it could just be a matter of hanging things on walls to make the church look extra fun. Decorating can be done anytime in June, leading up to the first day of VBS. Contact Lynn with your interest.

The choir loft renovation has begun and is projected to last 4 to 6 weeks. Work will include a complete demolition and rebuilding of the present choir risers in the loft. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details on this exciting project!

Centerpoint: Wednesday, May 14; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week, we will listen to and discuss an episode of the CXMH podcast titled *How Do We Make Our Churches Inclusive for Mental Health?*, which features Dr. Stephen Grcevich, an author and strong advocate for creating inclusive church environments that support the needs of children and adults with mental health diagnoses. For those who want to listen prior to then, the link is 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 May 14 is: pork ribs with baked beans or green beans; non-meat option: vegetable patty; kids: nuggets.

In the event of an emergency, first aid kits can be found in the kitchen, at the greeting desk in the Lewis Lobby and in the workroom in the church office. Band-aids can be found in the preschool and the children's suites. The church has two defibrillators (AED): one between the elevator and the church offices on the second floor and one on the main floor behind the sanctuary on the Edenton Street side, near the elevator.

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 • May 11–18

Sunday, May 11

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)

Monday, May 12

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

Tuesday, May 13

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 7:45 Softball game (Millbrook Exchange Park)

Wednesday, May 14

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 All Mission Night (sanctuary)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, May 15

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 11:45 Thirty-Niners lunch outing
(Captain Stanley's 3333 S. Wilmington Street)
- 6:45 Softball game (Millbrook Exchange Park)

Sunday, May 18

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 2:00 Music Made in Heaven concert and reception (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir rehearsal (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (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.