

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 18, 2025

# THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, a psalm calls us to join all creation in the worship of our God, reminding us not only that God is worthy of such praise but that we are not the only parts of creation which matter to our Maker. We read texts associated with the early Church which is trying to make sense of its calling, in particular, trying to discern who exactly Jesus means when he teaches us to love one another. Though we struggle with the teaching to this day, early believers discover through a vigorous process of debate that Jesus means everyone . . . as in All People, no exceptions. The sermon ponders the specific manifestations of this calling today, we pray that God's will might be done, and we respond with the dedication of our gifts and our love.

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### 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

"O Sing to the Lord"  
Mark Sedio

Maureen Howell

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights!

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord, all God's angels;  
praise the Lord, all the heavenly host!**

LEADER: Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

LEADER: Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for God commanded and they were created.

PEOPLE: **God established them for ever and ever;  
the Lord fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

LEADER: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

PEOPLE: **Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals  
and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

LEADER: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

PEOPLE: **Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

LEADER: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is  
exalted; the glory of the Lord is above earth and heaven.

PEOPLE: **The Lord has raised up a horn for God's people, praise for all  
the faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to God.**

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 356

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Jess Helms

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Second Reading

Revelation 21:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” <sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**



1 O sing to the Lord; O sing God a  
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done  
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the  
 4 O shout to our God, who gave us the  
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a  
 won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done  
 trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the  
 Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the  
 lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le -



new song. O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.  
 won - ders. For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.  
 trum - pets. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.  
 Spir - it. O shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.  
 lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

Words and Music: Portuguese (Brazilian Folk song)  
 English Trans. and Music arr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1982

## 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

"More Love"

Sanctuary Choir

Sid Davis, arr.

More love, more love. The heavens are blessing,  
the angels are calling, O Zion, more love.  
If ye love not each other in daily communion,  
how can ye love God whom ye have not seen?

Words and Music: Shaker Hymn  
Canterbury, N.H., c. 1870

### The Gospel

John 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

### The Sermon

"Learning from the Past"

Christopher Chapman

## 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

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

AURELIA



1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er As Christ ac - cept - ed us;
2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, As in our dai - ly life
3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us So that we may be moved
4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters With all who are in need,



Teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, Each per - son to em - brace.  
We strug - gle to be hu - man And search for hope and faith.  
In liv - ing sit - u - a - tions To do the truth in love;  
Who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, For jus - tice, and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, And bring us to be - lieve:  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, For all, not just for some;  
To prac - tice your ac - cep - tance Un - til we know by heart  
We need new eyes for see - ing, New hands for hold - ing on:



We are our - selves ac - cept - ed And meant to love and live.  
To love them as we find them, Or as they may be - come.  
The ta - ble of for - give - ness And laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
Re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

Words: Fred Kaan. 1975

Music: Samuel Sabastian Wesley, 1864



\*The Offertory Prayer

\*The Offertory

\*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt.  
Music: : *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623

## 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 AURELIA”  
Mark Hayes

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jess Helms. A 28-year member, Jessica serves on the Social Committee and as the chair of the Infant-Toddler Board. She is also the teacher for the Wilderness Sunday School class as well as a member of the Grains of Sand class. Jessica and her husband Chase have two sons, Asher and Ryder.

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

The Day Mission Fund pulpit parament is given in honor of their children, JD, Jess, and Sarah Catherine, as well as the Pathfinders, their extended family, by Bob and Mary Powell Rhodes.

Sympathy to the family of Betty Oglesby, who died May 11, and to Sandra Turnage, whose brother died May 12.

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](mailto: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. Register no later than June 1; registration form and more details in the *Rose Window Weekly*. We need help decorating for VBS by hanging decorations on the walls of each floor to help the space look inviting for our children who are joining us that week! This could be anytime the first two weeks of June — an hour here and an hour there adds up! Let Lynn know if you're interested.

The choir loft renovation is underway 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 21; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This week is our annual Mission Celebration Night. We'll begin in the fellowship hall with a brief video focusing on the theme of the night. Then we'll head to the sanctuary where our children will lead us in a worship service that they've designed and written.

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 May 21 is: sweet and sour meatballs with potatoes and corn; non-meat option: mock hamburger steak; kids: corn dogs.

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.

## **Calendar Highlights • May 18–25**

### **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)

### **Monday, May 19**

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open

### **Tuesday, May 20**

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

### **Wednesday, May 21**

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

### **Thursday, May 22**

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

### **Sunday, May 25**

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



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.



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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.*