

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 25, 2025

# THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

## THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 25, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter, the last Sunday before the Ascension of the Lord which concludes this sacred season. And yet, since we worship on the Lord's Day, the Day of Resurrection, every Sunday of the year is a little Easter, a reminder of resurrection hope which transcends all the suffering and hardship of this world. The sermon explores the story of healing found in John 5, the provoking question Jesus asks the man by the pool of Bethzatha, and the questions the story raises for us about healing in our time. We pray for healing in different forms, we sing praises to the God who makes some kind of healing possible, and we depart to live as Easter people in a world that often seems stuck on Good Friday.

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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

"Prelude on NETTLETON"  
Stephen Nielson

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

Psalm 67

LEADER: May God be gracious to us, sisters and brothers.

PEOPLE: **As we continually praise our Lord, may God's blessing be upon us; may God's face shine upon us.**

LEADER: We have come together for worship, with music and voice, gathered in by God's hope and grace.

PEOPLE: **In the light of God's love, darkness and death are defeated. Praise God's holy name!**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 62 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 16:9–15

Tonya Carter

<sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. <sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5

<sup>10</sup>And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Solo

“A Simple Song”

Niya Petkova

Leonard Bernstein (from *Mass*, 1971)

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.**

<sup>1</sup>After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



1. Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a  
 2. Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a  
 3. Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who



lib - er - at - ing light. Praise the One who frees the  
 strong yet gen - tle word. Praise the One who drove out  
 suf - fered in our place. Je - sus died and rose for



pris - 'ners, Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 de - mons With a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 man - y That we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, Heal - ing  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter To the  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, See - ing



ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing storms and feed - ing  
 des - ert's burn - ing sand. From this well comes liv - ing  
 what our God has done. Praise the one re - deem - ing



thou - sands With the ver - y bread of peace.  
 wa - ter Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 glo - ry; Praise the One who makes us one.

## 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, 408

MORNING SONG

“Here, Master, in This Quiet Place”

## 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

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Maureen Howell

David Gale

\*The congregation may stand.

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Niya Petkova, today's soloist, is from Apex, NC, and is concluding her year with us as a Choral Scholar supported by the Robert Lewis Music Endowment. She has recently completed her sophomore year at NC State as a Business Administration major. Niya has been involved in choral singing through high school and in college. She has taken voice lessons with Keely Phillips-Carter for almost five years, recently advancing to the quarterfinals as a vocalist in the National Teachers of Singing student auditions. In her free time, she enjoys reading, being with friends, watching movies or playing volleyball. As a Choral Scholar with us, she has been a faithful and active member of our choir, and shares, "What I've enjoyed most about FBC is the genuine warmth of the people. Being surrounded by such a kind and welcoming community always brightens my week and makes me more excited to make music!"

The Deacon on Call is Tonya Carter. A 20-year member, Tonya is a member of the Connections Sunday School class and the Sanctuary Choir and serves on the Weekday Preschool Council. Tonya and her husband Lin have three children: Joshua, Catherine, and Caleb.

The Everette Miller-Friendship Sunday School class is providing the pulpit parament today in thanksgiving for all their wonderful teachers and in memory of Don Cheek, Kay Cone, Gurtha Hollon, and Carolyn Smith.

Keep the 63 people on the Pathfinders' trip to Caswell this weekend in your prayers. They left on Friday and some will return today and some tomorrow.

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.

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 .

Due to unforeseen issues, the sanctuary choir loft renovation will take longer than expected. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details about the delay and about this exciting project.

Church conference: Wednesday, May 28; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. Documents and Zoom link can be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

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 28 is: chicken penne pasta, broccoli Normandy, garlic bread; non-meat option: penne pasta.



## **Calendar Highlights • May 25–June 1**

### **Sunday, May 25**

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

### **Monday, May 26 *Memorial Day holiday***

Church office and clothing ministry closed

### **Tuesday, May 27**

- 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 28**

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:15 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

### **Thursday, May 29**

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

### **Friday, May 30**

- 8:00 YMCA Racial Healing event (fellowship hall)

### **Sunday, June 1 *Graduation Sunday***


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

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.



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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.*