

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 1, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

June 1, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is a full day in our space of worship. It is Graduation Sunday, the Sunday we are led in worship by our graduating high school seniors. They have accomplished so much and have displayed a rich faith that is inspiring and worthy of the platform they are given today. It is also the concluding Sunday of the Easter season, and the week where we liturgically celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. It is a fitting liturgical moment. In a way, the disciples are graduating as well. They too will soon transition into a new phase of life and of faith. They will face new challenges, have new opportunities for growth, and develop into what God is calling them to be. Our scriptures today reflect the liturgy of the week, where we hear Jesus instructing the disciples on how they should live following his departure. Our music and reflections mirror this moment as they both celebrate the connections we have made in our lives and recognize the charge laid before us to continue in our ever-growing lives of faith.

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

"Siciliano" (from *Flute Sonata No. 2*) Cady Mercer, flute
J.S. Bach

The Invocation

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Spirit of holy joy, run wild through us —

PEOPLE: **like a laughing child, mouth wide open, full of the wonder of being alive.**

LEADER: Spirit of grieving anger, blow wild through bending branches.

PEOPLE: **Toss us out of our nice, cozy nests, to tumble and turn in your raging currents. Drive us out of complacency, carry us into the unknown, demand of us dangerous choices.**

LEADER: Spirit of holy fire, burn wild.

PEOPLE: **Destroy all that is dry, lifeless — dross that disguises the pure beauty of our true selves.**

LEADER: Spirit of life itself, flow wild through our veins, wrap yourself around our very bones,

PEOPLE: **thread yourself through our DNA so we no longer know where we end and you begin.**

ALL: Wild, wild Spirit, draw us into your dance, your wild, wild dance of love.

*The Hymn of Gathering and Procession

GATHER US IN

"Gather Us In"



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day. Gath-er us in and
 lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haughty; gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so
 wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and
 hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in, all
 we shall a-wak-en; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 meek and so low-ly; give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1982

The Anthem

"I Sing Because I'm Happy"

Youth Choir
and Sanctuary Choir

Charles H. Gabriel/Kenneth Paden and Rollo Dilworth, arr.

I sing because I'm happy. I sing because I'm free.
 His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
 I'm so happy, yes, I am!

Words by: Civilla D. Martin, 1905

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

John 17:20–26

Isaac Poteat

²⁰“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Romans 12:9–16

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Reflection

Laurel Bacon

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
 2. I'm your child while I run this race.
 3. Hold my hand while I run this race.
 4. Stand by me while I run this race.

Solo:
 Guide my feet while I run this race.
 I'm your child while I run this race.
 Hold my hand while I run this race.
 Stand by me while I run this race.

All:
 Guide my feet while I run this race,
 I'm your child while I run this race,
 Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
 Stand by me while I run this race,
 don't want to run this race in vain!

Words and Music: Trad. African-American Spiritual

The Third Reading

Luke 24:44–53

Andrew Neal

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Reflection

Olivia Poteat

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Anthem

“Home by Another Road”

Mark A. Miller

Youth Choir

Cady Mercer, solo

You taught my heart what love can be,
so I’m headed back home by another road.
I once was bound, but now I’m free,
so I’m headed back home by another road.
The lights are on, the welcome warm,
as we’re headed back home by another road.
There’s room for every person born
as we’re headed back home by another road.

*Join me now, the road is wide,
all God’s children side by side,
Where justice will shine and love abide,
we’re headed back home by another road.*

God’s people on the move again,
and we’re headed back home by another road.
The power of love has made us kin,
and we’re headed back home by another road.

Still worshiping, we’re on the way,
and we’re headed back home by another road.
We’ll hold each other’s hearts the day,
as we’re headed back home by another road.

Words by: Mark A. Miller and Lindy Thompson, 2022

The Presentation of Gifts

Michael Hood

The Parting Blessing

LEADER: O Christ, you are within each of us. It is not just the interior of these walls; it is our own inner being you have renewed. We are your temple not made with human hands; we are your body.

GRADUATES: *If every wall should crumble, and every church decay, we are your habitation.*

LEADER: Nearer are you than breathing, closer than hands and feet. Ours are the eyes which you, in the mystery, look out with compassion on the world.

GRADUATES: *So we bless You for this place, for your directing of us, your redeeming of us, your presence among us.*

LEADER: Take them outside, O Christ, outside holiness, to where nations clash at the crossroads of the world.

GRADUATES: *So shall this building continue to be justified; and your people find cause to bless your name.*

CONGREGATION: **God guide your feet and minds today, may you travel safely and find companions on the way.**

GRADUATES: *God be in your hands and hearts today when you wave goodbye and prepare to welcome others.*

CONGREGATION: **God be in your lives as you travel on and at your homecoming.**

GRADUATES: *God be with you always, constant companion, guardian, friend and guide.*

ALL: *May God's blessing be ours on our pilgrim way, all the nights and days of our journey home.*

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.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Blessing

“May a Song Remain”

Youth Choir

Larry E. Schultz

May a song remain within you, ever singing in your heart,
May a song remain among us, whether near or far apart.
And through our song may others hear the harmony of peace.
May a song of love remain in all; and may it never cease!

*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

“Home by Another Road” (*Reprise*)

Maureen Howell

Mark A. Miller

*The congregation may stand.

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OUR GRADUATES PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE



Laurel Bacon
Cleveland High School



Andrew Neal
Cary Christian School



Isaac Poteat
Millbrook High School



Olivia Poteat
Millbrook High School

The Deacon on Call is Crystal Bacon. A 28-year member and first-term deacon, Crystal is the director of the FBC Weekday Preschool and is an ex-officio member of the Weekday Preschool Council. She and her husband Dan have three children: Nathan, Savannah, and Addie.

Thanks to Will Mercer for assisting in today's accompaniment.

The sanctuary flowers are given for today's worship service in honor of our 2025 high school graduates.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

On Thursday, June 5, the ministers will be at an off-site staff retreat. Should you need to contact any of them, please call the church office.

The annual church picnic is Wednesday, June 4, 5–7pm, at Pullen Park (shelter #4). Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on. 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 June 4 is: burgers, dogs, chili, baked beans, macaroni and cheese; non-meat option: veggie burgers.

VBS will be held June 23–27, 9am–12pm. **Today is the last day to register!**

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.

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 • June 1-8

Sunday, June 1 *Graduation Sunday*

- 8:15 Breakfast for graduates (fellowship hall)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
 JBC worship (227)

Monday, June 2

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open

Tuesday, June 3

- 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, June 4

- 5:00 Annual church picnic (Shelter 4, Pullen Park)

Thursday, June 5

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, June 8 *Pentecost Sunday*

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (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.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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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.