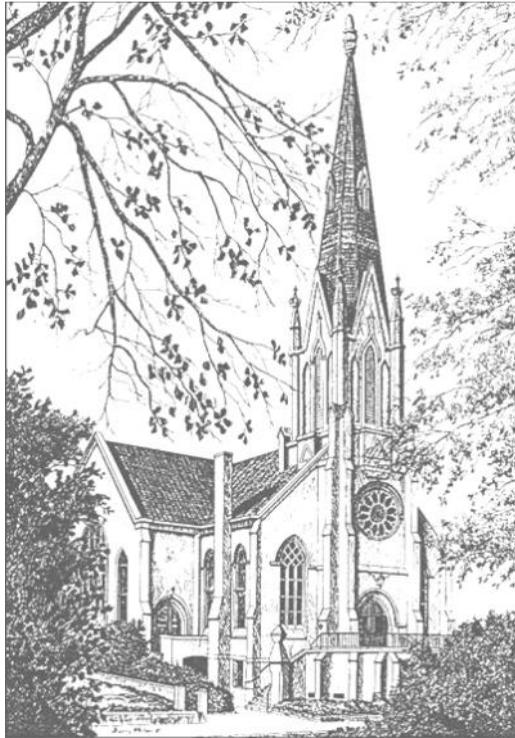


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 20, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 20, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, a part of what we call Ordinary Time in the Christian year. We continue with readings from Amos, Colossians, and Luke. Whereas the Gospel text provides a balancing narrative to last week's reading, calling for the cultivation of the inner life to inform our service to others, and the epistle reading continues the author's Christological thought, the words from Amos offer a straightforward word of challenge to those who take advantage of the poor and vulnerable and those who cannot bear words of criticism. The sermon presents a first-person exploration of this latter text which can feel heavy, but as William Willimon once said, "One way you can tell the difference between a true and living God and a dead and fake god is that a false god will never tell you anything that will make you angry and uncomfortable!" We pray for ears to hear and share worship music that calls us to listen, understand, and respond in faith.

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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

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Tanner Winchester  
Tanner Winchester, arr.

The Call to Worship

Psalm 15

LEADER: O God, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

PEOPLE: **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;**

LEADER: who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

PEOPLE: **in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear God; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

LEADER: who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

PEOPLE: **Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 72

“To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Amos 8:1-12

Anthony Petty

<sup>1</sup>This is what the Lord God showed me: a basket of summer fruit. <sup>2</sup>He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me,

"The end has come upon my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. <sup>3</sup>The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day," says the Lord God; "the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!" <sup>4</sup>Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. <sup>8</sup>Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

<sup>9</sup>On that day, says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. <sup>10</sup>I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

<sup>11</sup>The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>They shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in[b] him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, <sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

## 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

“Open Thou Mine Eyes”  
Benjamin Harlan

Sanctuary Choir  
Sue Crocker, dir.

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see.  
Open thou mine ears and I shall hear.  
Incline my heart and I shall desire,  
order my steps and I shall walk  
the ways of thy commandments.  
O Lord God, be thou to me a God  
that I may love you, that I may serve you,  
and adore you. That I may follow you,  
that I may look to you. Amen.

Words: based upon a prayer by Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

The Gospel

Luke 10:38–42

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, <sup>42</sup>but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 543

“Christ Beside Me”

BUNESSAN

The Sermon

“Confronting Hard Truths”

Christopher Chapman

The Prayer of Response, 431 “Serving the Poor” (unison)

## 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, 430

CHARLESTOWN

“All Who Love and Serve Your City”

\*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Träumerei”

Robert Schumann

\*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

## 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

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Anthony Petty. A 47-year member, Anthony is a member of the Scriptural Serendipity class and the Dream Team. He and his wife Carolyn have two grown children, Allie and Tom.

The sanctuary flowers for today's worship service are given in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Spradlin Meyer by her son Louis Meyer and family.

We thank Tanner Winchester for being our pianist and Sue Crocker for directing the choir this morning.

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

A special church conference will be held this evening (July 20) at 6pm in the fellowship hall to vote on important recommendations from the Properties Committee. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner at 5pm to enjoy some mid-summer fellowship before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

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 • July 20–27

### Sunday, July 20

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Potluck supper (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Special church conference (fellowship hall/Zoom)  
Summer youth group (Blue Room)

### Monday, July 21

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 11:00 Pat Davis' funeral (Raleigh Memorial Park, graveside)

### Tuesday, July 22

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

### Wednesday, July 23

- 9:30 Youth Bible study (Bojangles)

### Thursday, July 24

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

### Sunday, July 27

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 6:00 Summer youth group (Blue Room)

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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.*