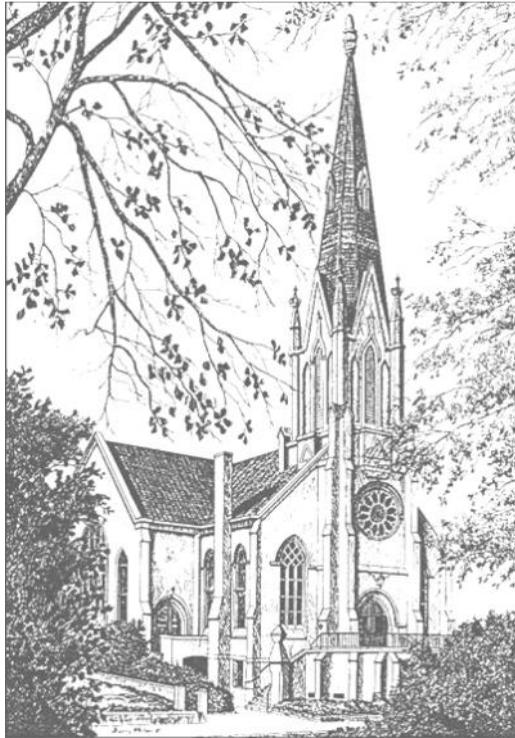


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 27, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 27, 2025

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: On this Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, we ponder the nature of prayer and faith as a whole. It is not a matter of our seeking to change God, but God offering to change us. We sing hymns of praise and read texts that shed light on the nature of our relationship to God. The sermon explores Jesus' teachings on prayer and a model he gives us. But we not only reflect on prayer today, we experience it, and not just at the noted times but throughout this service which is an ongoing experience of the holy as well as a dialogue between us and our Maker.

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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

"Amazing Grace"  
Tanner Winchester, arr.

Tanner Winchester

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 138

LEADER: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise.

PEOPLE: **I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name, for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.**

LEADER: For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

PEOPLE: **On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 103

"Ye Servants of God"

HANOVER

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 18:20–32

Nancye Gaj

<sup>20</sup>Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup>And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

**LEADER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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

“Whatever God Ordains Is Right”

Sanctuary Choir

Gary Matheny, arr.

Anna Anderson, dir.

Whatever God ordains is right; his will is ever holy.  
I will obey his every word, and follow where he leads me.  
He is my God, though dark my road, he leads me on the path of light.  
To follow him is my delight.

Whatever God ordains is right; he never will deceive me;  
He leads me by the proper path; I know he will not leave me.  
I take, content, what he has sent, his hand can turn my griefs away.  
And patiently I wait his day.

Whatever God ordains is right; here shall my stand be taken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet I am not forsaken;  
My Father’s care is round me there; through evil that I cannot see,  
I trust his hand to lead me.

Words: Samuel Rodigast, 1675  
Music: Severus Gastorius, 1675

<sup>1</sup>He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

<sup>2</sup>So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 622

CONVERSE

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Making Sense of Our Varied Experiences with Prayer”

The Prayer of Response, 625 (unison)

“Prayer of John Chrysostom”

## 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, 636

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

“If You Will Trust in God To Guide You”

## 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 Nancye Gaj. A 20-year member, Nancye is a member of the Sanctuary choir, a member of the Hospitality Committee, a member of the Dream Team, and a teacher of the Pathfinders Sunday School class. Nancye has a grown son, Carter.

Today's pulpit parament is presented by LaCount and Anna Anderson in appreciation for the many volunteers who serve the community through our clothing ministry. A gift to the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund has been made in their honor.

We thank Tanner Winchester for being our pianist and Anna Anderson for directing the choir this morning.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Alice and Hayes Strickland.

Sympathy to the families of Diane Fudge, who died Sunday, July 20; Rance Henderson, who died Monday, July 21; and Charles Barham, who died Tuesday, July 22. Sympathy also to Lynn and Alice Marshbanks and their family on the July 25 death of their father, Burgess Marshbanks.

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 27–August 3**

### **Sunday, July 27**

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

### **Monday, July 28**

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, July 29**

- 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 30**

- 9:30 Youth Bible study (Bojangles)
- 10:30 RPD Homeless Population Pop-up (parking lot)

### **Thursday, July 31**

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 First aid mental health training (fellowship hall)

### **Sunday, August 3**

- 9:45 Sunday School  
Community Ministries meeting (conference room)
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 6:00 Youth Senior Night (Blue Room)

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH  
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

99 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

(919) 832-4485 x201      Fax: (919) 832-6726      [www.fbcraleigh.org](http://www.fbcraleigh.org)

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.*