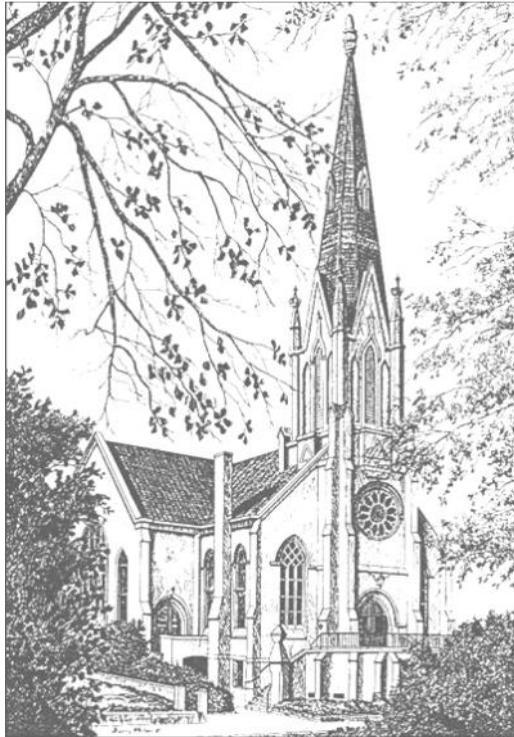


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 17, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we continue in what we call Ordinary Time, we encounter more lectionary texts with difficult messages. While the reading from Hebrews offers encouragement from the great cloud of witnesses who have preceded us, a message the anthem echoes, the readings from Isaiah and Luke proclaim strong words of warning. The sermon will focus on the latter reading, Jesus' strange words of division which seem unusual for him but well-suited to our time. There may not be any straightforward good news here, but there is insight we need to consider. As we ponder our challenges, we sing songs of praise and thanksgiving, we pray for wisdom and discernment, and we respond with financial gifts and the dedication of our lives.

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

"My Lord, What a Morning"
Kurt Kaiser

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

LEADER: Come, Holy Spirit, fire of justice;

PEOPLE: **kindle the flame of faith in us.**

LEADER: Come, Lord Jesus, stream of mercy;

PEOPLE: **pour out your grace upon us now.**

LEADER: Let us worship God.

*The Hymn of Praise, 45 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 5:1-7

Stan Crocker

¹I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Saints Bound for Heaven”
Mac Wilberg, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Our bondage it shall end by and by.
From Egypt’s yoke set free,
hail the glorious jubilee,
and to Canaan we’ll return, by and by.

Our deliverer He shall come by and by.
And our sorrows have an end,
with our three score years and ten,
and vast glory crown the day by and by.

And when to Jordan’s floods we are come,
Jehovah rules the tide
and the waters he’ll divide,
and the ransomed host shall shout “We are come.”

Then with all the happy throng we’ll rejoice.
Shouting glory to our King,
till the vaults of heaven ring,
and through all eternity we’ll rejoice.

from William Walker’s *Southern Harmony*, 1840

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.**

⁴⁹Jesus said, “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
 and son against father,
 mother against daughter
 and daughter against mother,
 mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
 and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 279 “My Lord! What a Morning”

BURLEIGH

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Making Sense of Jesus' Strange Words of Division”

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, 749 “Rejoice in God’s Saints”

HANOVER

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“My Lord, What a Morning”
Teresa Wilhelmi

Maureen Howell

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

“Promised Land”
Joseph Martin

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Stan Crocker. A 59-year member, Stan sings in the Sanctuary Choir and is a member and teacher of the Journey Sunday School class. He and his wife Sue have two grown children—Lee and Joseph.

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

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Jerry H. Stevens and Rolin Ashton Stevens by Berti Stevens and family.

Join us Sunday, August 24, from 5–7pm, for our End-of-Summer Block Party and Fall Kick-off! You can get supper from the *Also With 'Cue* food truck and we'll have a cornhole tournament, music from Eliza Myers and her band, inflatables & face painting for the kids, and complimentary *Howling Cow* ice cream to cool us off. Find a partner, give your team a fun name, and sign up for the cornhole tournament at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4AA4AC29A20-57638670-fbccornhole>.

Church conference: Wednesday, August 27; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm, in person and via Zoom (link and documents may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*).

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 • August 17–24

Sunday, August 17

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Toy Joy planning meeting (301)
- 6:00 Summer youth group (Blue Room)

Monday, August 18

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open

Tuesday, August 19

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

Wednesday, August 20

- 9:30 Youth Bible study (Bojangles)
- 5:00 Taco & Qwirkle party (Wade home)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, August 21

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 5:00 Children's Ministry pool party (Lakepark Swim Club)

Sunday, August 24

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/Baby dedication (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 3:30 Handbell rehearsal (302)
- 5:00 Block Party (parking lot)

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.