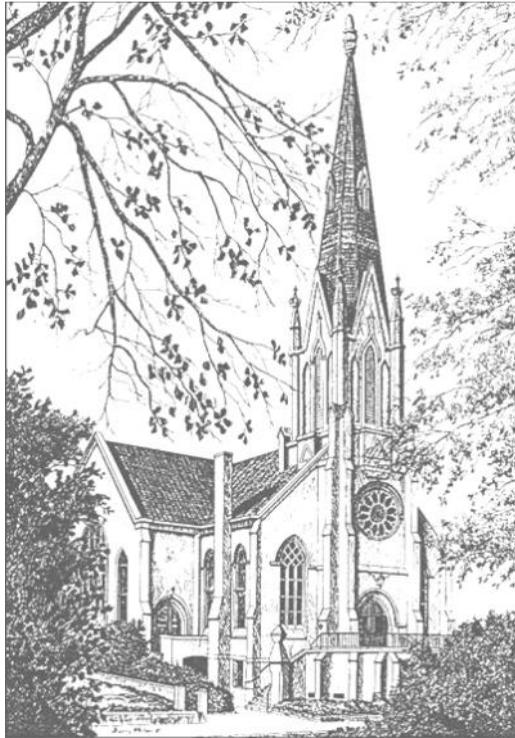


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 31, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship around themes found in the lectionary texts — a calling to trust in God and not in our own abilities, the nature of Christian faith as defined by personal piety and service to others, and the radical nature of a beloved community where all are welcome, especially the outcast and marginalized. The worship music enables us to offer praise to the God who inspires such faith and community, we pray that the world might embrace these gifts, and the sermon explores the practical implications of Jesus' guest list for community feasts. We depart, not exactly as we have come, perhaps a bit unsettled yet also inspired, challenged in some way to expand our witness of love and justice.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

"When Morning Gilds the Skies" Elaine and John Holley
Catherine McMichael, arr. violin, viola

The Call to Worship

“In Stillness, Your Word

Warren Howell

$\text{♩} = 70$

In still - ness, your Word, in dark - ness, your Light,

in dy - ing, your Life, and in liv - ing, your Love.

Words and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 2014

The Invocation

Christopher Chapman

LEADER: Holy God, you alone are worthy of honor and praise.

PEOPLE: **Open our eyes to see the world as you see it.**

LEADER: Open our hearts to love the world as you love it.

PEOPLE: **Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people.**

LEADER: Transform us through your Spirit,

PEOPLE: **enlarge our faith,**

LEADER: call us to love with a full heart

PEOPLE: **and to share your promises with all people. Amen.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 99

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 2:4–13

Robbie Puckett

⁴Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me
and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?

⁶They did not say, "Where is the Lord,
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"

⁷I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.

But when you entered you defiled my land
and made my heritage an abomination.

⁸The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?"
Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal
and went after things that do not profit.

⁹Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord,
and I accuse your children's children.

¹⁰Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look;
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.

¹¹Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.

¹²Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked; be utterly desolate, says the Lord,

¹³or my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,

the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

“Hidden Christ, Alive Forever” (*Stanza 1*)

**Hidden Christ, alive forever,
Savior, Servant, Friend and Lord,
year by year, unseen, you offer
life undying, love outpoured.
Day by day, you walk among us,
known and honored, yet concealed,
freeing, chiding, leading, guiding,
till your glory is revealed.**

Words: Brian Wren, 1999

Tune: HYFRYDOL, Roland H. Prichard c.1830

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 Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7–14

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

HYFRYDOL

“Hidden Christ, Alive Forever” (Stanzas 2 & 3)

**Still your life and way of living,
God-revealing, Spirit-blown,
teaching, healing, sins forgiving,
measure and inspire our own;
loving earth's despised, rejected,
till with them you hang in pain,
broken, buried, resurrected,
life laid down, our life to gain.**

**Christ our hope, alive among us,
take our love, our work, our prayer.
We will trust and tell your purpose,
braving evil and despair;
in your name befriending, mending,
making peace and setting free,
showing, giving and acclaiming
signs of joy and jubilee.**

Words: Brian Wren, 1999

Tune: HYFRYDOL, Roland H. Prichard c.1830

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Guess Who's Coming to Dinner”

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.

“Will You Come and Follow Me”



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4. Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be
 Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er be
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be



the same? Will you let my love be shown,
 the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare
 the same? Will you kiss the lep - er clean,
 the same? Will you use the faith you've found
 the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll go



will you let my name be known, will you let my
 should your life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 and do such as this un - seen, and ad - mit to
 to re - shape the world a - round, through my sight and
 where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown in you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 what I mean in you and you in me?
 touch and sound in you and you in me?
 live and grow in you and you in me.

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

“Cornet Voluntary”
Georg Berg

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Robbie Puckett. A 42-year member, Robbie serves as the leader of WMU Group Seven and is a member and the co-president of the John Hiott Fellowship Sunday School class. She has two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Today's pulpit parament is presented by Bobby and Nancy Phillips in honor of all the women of the church whose faithful work we could not do without. A donation has been given to the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund in their honor.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 3; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. This month, our programs discuss: *How is education different today – joys, rewards, opportunities – maybe more of a calling than ever?* We'll be exploring this question over the course of three weeks for Pre-K, K-12 and college.

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 September 3 is: baked chicken with carrots, green beans, and potatoes; vegetarian option: mock chicken; kids: pizza rolls.

Join us for our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event on Sunday, September 7, from 12–2:30pm in the fellowship hall. Immediately following worship, you're invited to join us for a free pizza lunch, and then we'll get to work packaging 10,000 meals! There are jobs for all ages and abilities, so please join us. RSVP by emailing Nancy Moore Phillips (nancyp919@gmail.com).

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 • August 31–September 7

Sunday, August 31

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

Monday, September 1 *Labor Day Holiday*

Church office and clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, September 2

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

Wednesday, September 3

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:00 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, September 4

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, September 7

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:00 Rise Against Hunger event (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)



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
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.