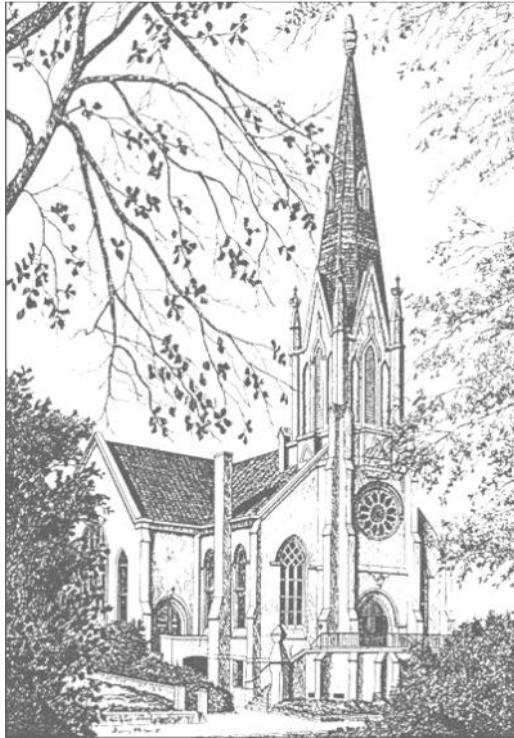


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 14, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the biblical texts call us to repentance, but they also shed light on how we practice it — by trusting in God's love, no matter what, and thus believing that something better is possible. We sing praises to this God of love who guides us like a shepherd throughout life. We offer prayers for a world that desperately needs to hear the call to repentance. And we celebrate baptism, a sign of God's grace and our turning toward love. We depart to live out the changes we contemplate here, to fulfill our promises to God.

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

Beth McCollum, violin

"He Leadeth Me/Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Phillip Keveren, arr.

The Call to Worship

LEADER: Rejoice with me, people of God.

PEOPLE: **God has gathered us in from the wilderness.**

LEADER: Rejoice with me, people of God.

PEOPLE: **God has swept away the darkness of the night.**

LEADER: Rejoice with me, people of God.

PEOPLE: **Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels.**

The Celebration of Baptism
Emily Mae Taylor

Michael Hood

The Prayer of Blessing and Commitment

*The Hymn of Praise, 20 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

ODE TO JOY

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28

Charles Gale

¹At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, ^{12a}a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

²²“For my people are foolish;
they do not know me;
they are stupid children;
they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil
but do not know how to do good.”

²³I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos,
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

²⁴I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

²⁵I looked, and there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

²⁶I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

²⁷For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.

²⁸Because of this the earth shall mourn
and the heavens above grow black,
for I have spoken; I have purposed;
I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758

Music: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

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.**

**I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,
how he left his home in glory for the cross of Calvary.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me;
sing it with the saints in glory gathered by the crystal sea.**

**I was lost but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray,
threw his loving arms around me, drew me back into his way.
I was bruised but Jesus healed me, faint was I from many a fall;
sight was gone, and fears possessed me, but he freed me from them all.**

**Days of darkness still come o'er me; sorrow's path I often tread,
but the Savior still is with me; by his hand I'm safely led.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me;
sing it with the saints in glory gathered by the crystal sea.**

Words: Francis H. Rowley, 1886
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“Psalm Folksong”
Edwin Penhorwood

Sanctuary Choir

The Lord’s my shepherd; I’ll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e’en for his own name’s sake;

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still;

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God’s house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Words: Psalm 23, Scottish Psalter, 1650, alt.

The Sermon

“How We Change”

Christopher Chapman

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, 558

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

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

“Processional of Joy”
Hal Hopson

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Charles Gale. A member for 18 years, Charles is the assistant church clerk as well as a member of the Nominating Committee. He is also a teacher for the First-Third Grade Sunday School class and a member of The Journey Sunday School class. He coaches the youth basketball team and plays on the adult softball team.

Today's pulpit parament is being sponsored by the Everette Miller Friendship Class in recognition of Barbara Huggins' many years of service as the communication officer. We also thank our class members: Steve Austin, Bob Bailey, and Laura Maness for their faithful service as teachers as well as other FBC members who join us to teach. Thanks to those who make the teaching schedule. Finally, we thank our new officers for 2025-2026 for serving and express our appreciation to those rotating off. A donation is made to the Day Mission Fund.

Our Bible bearer and acolyte today are Asher and Jess Helms.

Sympathy to Betty Lewis on the September 4 death of her sister, Mary Anne Saadeh.

Keep the 11 people going on the Children's Fall Retreat to Camp Kanata this Friday, September 19, and returning on Sunday, September 21, in your prayers.

Join us on Saturday, September 27, from 9am-noon, in the fellowship hall for a YMCA-sponsored all-levels yoga session. Children ages 5 and up are welcome to participate with their families. Please dress comfortably; light breakfast items will be available. Bring your own yoga mat if you have one, but we'll have extras available for those who need one. Registration link and more details in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 17; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. Chris Chapman will be leading a panel discussion of college educators, including Charles Kimball, Barry Jones, Hope Williams, Nancye Gaj, and Derek Foster in our next segment of *How is education different today — joys, challenges, opportunities — maybe more of a calling now than ever?* For a Zoom link to the program, see the *Rose Window Weekly*.

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 17 is: pork tenderloin with baked apples and mac-n-cheese; vegetarian option: mock meat; kids: chicken nuggets.

We will have the first of two donation drop-off/collection days on Sunday, September 28, from 9:30am-1pm, in the fellowship hall. At that time, we will collect new or GENTLY USED toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, and books. Please make sure that all used items are clean and in very good condition, with ALL of their pieces and parts included. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for links to Amazon, Walmart, and Target wish lists. If you prefer for our Toy Joy team to do the shopping, you may also donate funds, specifying TOY JOY in the memo line of your check.

Our Fall Festival will be Sunday, September 28, from 4–7pm, at Harvey Hill at Dix Park. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for registration and payment links and more details.

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 • September 14–21

Sunday, September 14

- 9:45 Sunday School
- Community Ministries meeting (conference room)
- 11:00 FBC worship/baptism (sanctuary/YouTube)
- JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

Monday, September 15

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Financial Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, September 16

- 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 17

- 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)
- Evening Bells rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, September 18

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners meeting (fellowship hall)

Friday, September 19–Sunday, September 21

Children's Fall Retreat (Camp Kanata)

Sunday, September 21

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC/JBC joint worship/baptism (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

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

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.