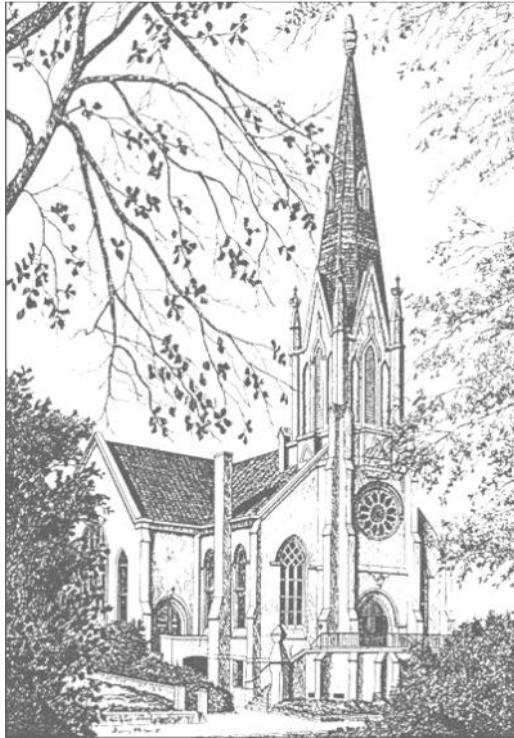


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 21, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we read another set of challenging texts. The prophet Jeremiah expresses profound grief at the condition of his nation. The Apostle Paul urges Timothy and others around him to pray for kings and all in high positions, the very people who are persecuting the early church. And Jesus tells a parable which seems to offer praise for a dishonest manager. We are reminded yet again that scripture needs interpretation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but we are also alerted to the truth that some messages that are difficult to hear are the very ones we need to hear. The sermon explores the challenging, needful insights of the reading from Jeremiah, as we sing praises to the God who is ever more than we can imagine, voice prayers for understanding and conviction, and offer gifts to help sustain the work of God's realm.

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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

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Maureen Howell

Gail Ann Wasson

## The Invocation

Musical score for 'The Invocation' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.'

Words and Music: John L. Bell, 1995

## The Call to Worship

based on Psalm 113

LEADER: Who is like the Blessed One,

PEOPLE: **the One who is Infinite Love, Power, and Wisdom,**

LEADER: Who enters into human hearts  
and brings comfort to those in need?

PEOPLE: **Yes, those who call upon the Merciful One  
are lifted up and blessed with new life;**

LEADER: Come, all who suffer and are heavy-laden,  
open your hearts to Love!

PEOPLE: **Sing praises to the Heart of all hearts!**

\*The Hymn of Praise, 50

MIT FREUDEN ZART

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1

Elizabeth Riley

<sup>18</sup>My joy is gone; grief is upon me;  
my heart is sick.

<sup>19</sup>Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people  
from far and wide in the land:

“Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?”

(“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?”)

<sup>20</sup>“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved.”

<sup>21</sup>For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,  
I mourn, and horror has seized me.

<sup>22</sup>Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people  
not been restored?

<sup>1</sup>O that my head were a spring of water  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of the daughter of my people!

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

1 Timothy 2:1–7

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 611 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

BALM IN GILEAD

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

"Seek the Lord"

John Carter

Sanctuary Choir

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near.  
Let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord,  
that he may have mercy on him,  
and to our God,  
for he will abundantly pardon.

Words: Isaiah 55:6-7

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**LEADER:** This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## 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, 669 CWM RHONDDA  
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

\*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory “All Creatures of Our God and King” Maureen Howell  
Dana McElwain

\*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 “Cortège” Maureen Howell  
Flor Peeters

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Elizabeth Riley. A 16-year member, Elizabeth serves on the Church Nominating Committee, Adult Ministries Council, the Toy Joy team, the White Flag team, and the Weekday Preschool Board. She is also a member of the Wilderness Sunday School class and a 3s–K Mission Friends teacher.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Christy Isaacs Alston, on what would have been her 55th birthday on September 23 by her son, Alejandro Alston, and her parents, Linda and Dan Roberts.

Keep the 11 people returning today from the Children’s Fall Retreat at Camp Kanata 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*.

Church conference: Wednesday, September 24; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and meeting at 6pm, in person and via Zoom (link and documents may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*).

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice)), by email ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for September 24 is: breakfast for dinner.

We will have the first of two donation drop-off/collection days next 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 is next 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. Please be sure to prepay as park rules prevent us from collecting money on-site.

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 21–28

### 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)

### Monday, September 22

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 4:00 Stewardship Team meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 5:30 Deacons' meeting (302/Zoom)
- Adult Ministries Council meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### Tuesday, September 23

- 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 24

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:00 Church conference (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 25

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch (High Park Grill, 625 East Whitaker Mill Rd)
- 5:00 Church Council (Zoom)

### Saturday, September 27

- 7:30 YMCA Community Engagement Day (fellowship hall)

### Sunday, September 28

- 9:00 Toy Joy collection day (fellowship hall)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- JBC worship (227)
- 4:00 Fall Festival (Harvey Hill at Dix Park)

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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.*