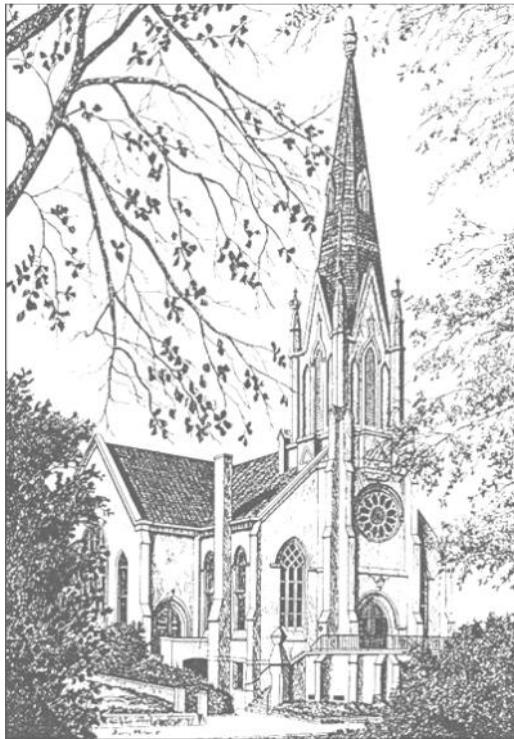


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 7, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Since we shape worship around biblical texts found in the Revised Common Lectionary, the mood and focus of worship vary according to themes found in these texts. But worship is also shaped by who we are and what we bring in terms of life experience. So, what we find here involves the intersection of biblical stories and our story as we offer praise to the Author of all stories and seek guidance on our path. Today's texts are demanding, but they are also filled with grace. God works with our incremental steps toward the beloved community, shaping us like clay on a potter's wheel, until we are able to fulfill Christ's calling to carry the cross. We offer songs of praise and thanksgiving for such grace, we pray for a world that needs it, and we celebrate God's love and calling with the bread and cup of communion.

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

"How Great Thou Art"
Chuck Marohnic

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

“Be Still and Know”

Sanctuary Choir
Elizabeth Glontz, leader

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system is for the Leader, with lyrics: "Leader: Be still and know that I am God. Be still and". The second system is for the All, with lyrics: "All: Be still and know that I am God.". The third system continues the lyrics: "know that I am God." on the top staff and "Be still and know that I am God." on the bottom staff. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases held over from the previous line.

Words: Psalm 46:10
Music: John L. Bell, 1989

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 21

“How Great Thou Art”

O STORE GUD

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Mary Powell Rhodes

¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

⁵Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶“Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?” says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

¹¹Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Come Unto Me”
Mark Blankenship

Sanctuary Choir

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

Words: Matthew 11:28-30

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 14:25–33

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, And I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the phar-i-see, But
 3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame: The
 4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black; It's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; †



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I
 they would not dance, and they would-n't fol-low me; I
 ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev-il on your back. They
 I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll



came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth; At
 danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And
 bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone; But
 live in you if you'll live in me: †



Beth-le-hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a Cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the



Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher-



ev-er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“What in the World Is Jesus Saying Here?”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

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, 395

REPTON

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

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

“Simple Gifts”

Maureen Howell

John Leavitt

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Mary Powell Rhodes. A 47-year member, Mary Powell is chair and council rep of the Hospitality Committee, serves on the Community Ministries committee, and volunteers in the clothing ministry. She is also co-chair of the Prayer Circle via Email and a member of the Prayer Shawl Group, the Evening Bells, and Pathfinders Class. Mary Powell and her husband Bob have two grown children, Sarah Catherine Rhodes and J.D. Rhodes.

The pulpit parament in the sanctuary today is sponsored in memory of her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson, and her sister, Becky Wines, by Emily Johnson. A donation is made to the Day Mission Fund.

We remember the roughly 40 members of our church family who are participating in the MS Bike Ride in New Bern this weekend.

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.

Save the date for the Fall Festival: Sunday, September 28, from 4–7pm at Harvey Hill at Dix Park. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Join us for our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event today 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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 10; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. Elizabeth Riley will lead a panel discussion on K-12 education as part of our discussion of *How is education different today – joys, rewards, opportunities – maybe more of a calling 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 10 is: hamburger steak with gravy and rice and broccoli Normandy; vegetarian option: mock hamburger steak.

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 7–14

Sunday, September 7

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

Monday, September 8

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

Tuesday, September 9

- 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 10

- 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 11

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

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)

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.