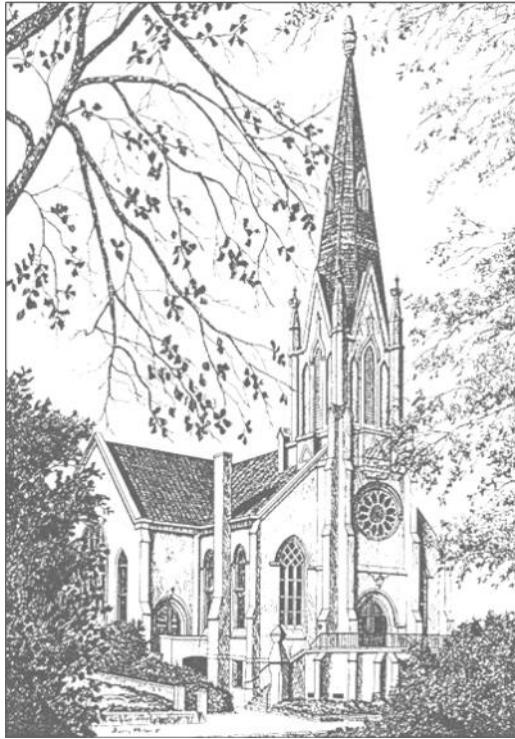


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 23, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
REIGN OF CHRIST

November 23, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday in the Christian year. The year appropriately ends with a celebration of Christ's sovereignty. While the use of a Gospel text describing Jesus' crucifixion may seem like an odd choice to outsiders, to those in the church it makes perfect sense. We follow the One who overcomes evil not with force but with sacrificial love. We share sacred music that points to this counterintuitive form of power, we pray for the ongoing work of Christ's sovereignty, and we conclude our stewardship emphasis with a liturgical prayer of thanksgiving and commitment which expresses our genuine desire to be part of this work.

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

"Andante in D Major"

Tanner Winchester

Felix Mendelssohn

The Call to Worship (responsive)

based on Luke 1:68

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**PEOPLE: for God has looked favorably on God's people
and redeemed them.**

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**PEOPLE: for God has called us God's own beloved
and called each of us by name.**

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**PEOPLE: for God has blessed God's creation
and called us to worship.**

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

PEOPLE: Let us rejoice, for the Lord reigns!

*The Hymn of Praise, 262

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

DARWALL

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Sheila Jordan

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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 Hymn of Devotion

“Hidden Christ, Alive Forever”

HYFRYDOL



Hid - den Christ, a - live for - ev - er, Sav - ior, Ser - vant, Friend and Lord,
Still your life and way of liv - ing, God - re - veal - ing, Spir - it - blown,
Christ our hope, a - live a - mong us, take our love, our work, our prayer.



year by year, un - seen, you of - fer life un - dy - ing, love out - poured.
teach - ing, heal - ing, sins for - giv - ing, mea - sure and in - spire our own;
We will trust and tell your pur - pose, brav - ing e - vil and de - spair;



Day by day, you walk a - mong us, known and hon - ored, yet con - cealed,
lov - ing earth's de - spised, re - ject - ed, till with them you hang in pain,
in your name be - friend - ing, mend - ing, mak - ing peace and set - ting free,



free - ing, chid - ing, lead - ing, guid - ing, till your glo - ry is re - vealed.
bro - ken, bur - ied, res - ur - rect - ed, life laid down, our life to gain.
show - ing, giv - ing and ac - claim - ing signs of joy and ju - bi - lee.

Words: Brian Wren, 2005

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

“My Eternal King”

Sanctuary Choir

Jane Marshall

Sue Crocker, dir.

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally,

Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.

Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav'n, or of escaping hell;

Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!

E'en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.

Words: 17th century Latin poem
trans. Edward Caswell (1814-1878)

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Jesus Died Like He Lived and This Tells Us All We Need To Know”

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, 115 “Fairest Lord Jesus”

ST. ELIZABETH

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Claire Willmschen Petty

LEADER: Generous and loving God, we thank you for our many blessings. We acknowledge that all that we have has come from your hand.

PEOPLE: **We promise to do our best to respond to your generosity through gifts of time, talent, and possessions. Give us wisdom to understand your will for us.**

LEADER: As we near the end of the busy fall season, we feel the anticipation of holidays and a blooming new year. Bless our path ahead so we may have clarity in mind and heart.

PEOPLE: **We promise to do our best to joyfully nurture this congregation in spirit and gifts. Help us hear your call to be good stewards.**

LEADER: God, we are listening. We seek to be patient, generous, and merciful as You and your Son have taught us.

PEOPLE: **We promise to do our best to place You first, opening our hearts to a more prayerful and focused life. Through You, we see the ultimate example of unabashed neighborly love.**

LEADER: Sometimes all we can do is try our best. Hear and bless our promises today so they may come alive in you.

ALL: ***God, you are the source of all we have. We trust in your promise of everlasting love, knowing that our promises in this place allow us to better serve our church, our community, and our world. Amen.***

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

“Tuba Tune, op. 15”

Tanner Winchester

C.S. Lang

*The congregation may stand.

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The Call to Worship adapted from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment was written by Claire Willmschen Petty.

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The Deacon on Call is Sheila Jordan. A 41-year member of First Baptist, Sheila is the president of the Everette Miller-Friendship Sunday School class, serves as the chair and council rep of the Social Committee, and volunteers in the church office. She and her husband Jerry Washington live in Raleigh.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Charley and Logan Teague.

The sanctuary flowers are provided today in memory of Howard Shell by his wife, Frances Shell, and family.

We thank Tanner Winchester for playing the organ and Sue Crocker for directing the choir today.

Sympathy to Marie Andrews on the August 12 death of her sister, Nancy Dillard Johnson.

Today at 12pm in the fellowship hall, the Japanese congregation would like to treat you to a luncheon of a traditional Japanese-style chicken curry and rice. There is no cost for the luncheon, although they would welcome your donations.

The church office will be closed this week from Wednesday through Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday and will reopen Monday morning, December 1.

In response to a recent November mission lesson focused on Living Out Our Faith through Feeding Others, our RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends invite you to bring canned goods for the Food Bank when you come to church the next few weeks. Look for their collection boxes on every floor.

We Promise To Do Our Best, our 2026 stewardship emphasis, is underway. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God. If you don't receive a stewardship packet in the mail, please contact the church office. As of November 20, we have received 52 pledges totaling \$450,490 towards our goal of \$1,389,580.

Due to lack of storage space, the clothing ministry asks that you hold all donations of women's clothing, with the exception of coats. Additionally, when they resume accepting women's clothing, they would appreciate fall/winter clothes only. They are still in need of men's and children's fall/winter clothing (especially coats!) and appreciate those donations.

During November, we are collecting a special offering for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Recent cuts to SNAP benefits have placed increased financial strain on many families in our community and in light of this, our church has the opportunity to respond compassionately to the growing needs of our local neighbors. The Food Bank plays a vital role in addressing food insecurity, and our collective support could make a significant difference during what will likely be the worst hunger crisis in a generation. This organization is not in our current or 2026 budget, making this a special opportunity to give back to a program that desperately needs our support.

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 7, at 6pm, followed by a reception. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of holiday decorations for our sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes or on our website— must be received with payment by Friday, December 5.

If you can make two or three dozen cookies for the Hanging of the Greens reception, please email Sheila Jordan (jbwsaj@yahoo.com). The cookies need to be brought to the kitchen on Sunday morning, December 7.

In the event of an emergency, first aid kits can be found at the greeting desk in the Lewis Lobby and in the workroom in the church office. 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.

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 the 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 • November 23–30

Sunday, November 23

- 8:00 Buddy Breakfast (301)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:30 JBC worship (227)
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 12:00 JBC curry luncheon (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Evening bells (302)
Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, November 24

- Clothing ministry closed
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, November 25

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (301)
- 7:00 Adult choir rehearsal (sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 26–Friday, November 28

Thanksgiving holiday: church office closed

Sunday, November 30

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir and pizza (choir room/sanctuary)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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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.