

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 30, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, a four-week season of preparation for the coming of the Messiah and the beginning of a new Christian year. It is a season of penitence and reflection. Thus, we wear purple stoles and include time for confession and assurance. But it is also a season of celebration and expectation, patient waiting for the wondrous new thing God might do among us. So, we light the first Advent candle and share sacred music that points to hope and fulfillment. All the texts express a deep longing for something more, we pray for a better world, and we reflect on Isaiah's vision of something better, trusting that with God it is still possible.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

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

Tanner Winchester

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

BJ and Ron Sanders

Reader 1: This is the first Sunday of Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *prepare*. There is much to do in the way of preparation. We prepare for Christmas with gift purchases, tree trimming, home decorating, card mailing. We prepare for Christ with prayer, quiet contemplation, acts of service and love, resolutions to become better people than we are now.

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah describes the time for which we are preparing with these words (Isaiah 2:2-4).

²In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

We light the first candle as a sign of our willingness to prepare for the coming of God's reign in Christ.

(The first candle is lit.)

Reader 1: (Let us pray) Gracious God, help us to prepare not only our homes but also our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel. As we go up the mountain of faith, may we listen for your voice and pay attention to your teachings, that Christ may come to us in the fullness of time to bring us your gift of peace. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession (responsive)

LEADER: You know what time it is:

PEOPLE: **Now is the time to wake from sleep.**

LEADER: Salvation is near!

PEOPLE: **Let us confess our sin.**

The Prayer of Confession

God of peace and mercy, we are a people with hearts of strife. Instead of loving you, we turn away. Instead of loving our neighbor, we take up arms against them. Too often our words and actions wage war and fall short of your hope for creation. Forgive us, O Lord, for our hostile hearts and help us see the light that comes from the highest mountain where all nations shall stream together. Guide us so that we may be the ones to beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Continually transform us so we may follow in the ways of our Savior, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The night is far gone and the day is upon us. In Jesus Christ we have the assurance that we are forgiven and ready to radiate the light found in our savior. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The Act of Praise

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry be to God on high,

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/8 time signature. It contains a vocal melody with lyrics: "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry be to God on high,". The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. Both staves end with a double bar line and repeat dots.

and on earth peace to all peo-ple in whom God is well pleased.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the vocal melody with lyrics: "and on earth peace to all peo-ple in whom God is well pleased." The lower staff continues the harmonic accompaniment. Both staves end with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Words: Based on Luke 2:14; Pablo Sosa, 1989
Music: Pablo Sosa, 1989

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Christian Testament

Romans 13:11-14

Ryan Willis

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 Solo

"O Come to Us, Emmanuel"
Joseph M. Martin

Greg Flowers

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36–44

³⁶“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 277 “The King Shall Come”

MORNING SONG

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Addressing a Real and Profound Human Yearning”

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, 135

HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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

Tanner Winchester

*The congregation may stand.

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The Advent candle-lighting ritual is adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi.

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The Deacon on Call is Ryan Willis. A 11-year member, Ryan serves on the Board of Trustees and is the church treasurer as well as chair and council rep for the Financial Committee. He is a teacher for the Grades 4 & 5 Sunday School class. Ryan and his wife Robin have one daughter, Lucy.

We thank Tanner Winchester for playing the piano today.

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 26, we have received 71 pledges totaling \$574,630.00 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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, December 3; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. This week, you may choose from two opportunities for fellowship and service. In the fellowship hall, participants can create Chrismon ornaments to be used on the FBC tree, or at home. For those who prefer a hands-on service project, the clothing ministry will be sorting donations and preparing items for neighbors in need.

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 on December 3 is: chicken and waffles with collard greens and butternut squash; vegetarian option: fried tofu; kids: pizza bites.

Hanging of the Greens will be held next 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 30–December 7

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)

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 4

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

Saturday, December 6

- 9:00 Evening Bells rehearsal (sanctuary)
- 10:00 Hanging of the Greens rehearsal (sanctuary)

Sunday, December 7

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 4:00 Evening Bells rehearsal (sanctuary)
- 6:00 Hanging of the Greens service (sanctuary)
- 7:00 Hanging of the Greens reception (fellowship hall)

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.