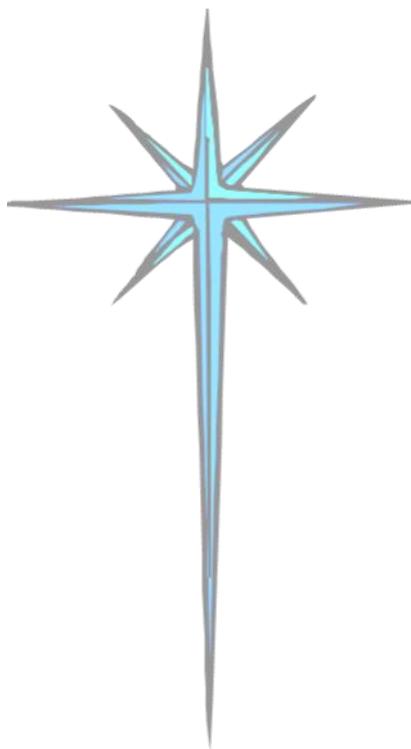


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 28, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this first Sunday after Christmas, we're reminded that the story does not end with angels and songs. In today's text from Matthew, we encounter the holy family forced to flee, grieving parents, and a world that is not safe. Today's worship invites us to tell the truth about fear, loss, and displacement, while trusting that God's purposes endure beyond violence and power. We gather to lament honestly, hope faithfully, and remember that God-with-us remains present even after the celebration fades.

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

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" Elaine and John Holley
Catherine McMichael violin and viola

The Call to Worship

Michael Hood

LEADER: In this season of great joy, we praise the Lord;

PEOPLE: for the joy God brings is everlasting.

LEADER: In this season of grace, we praise the Lord

PEOPLE: for God's grace knows no borders, encompasses all.

LEADER: In this season of Light, we praise the Lord

PEOPLE: for Emmanuel, God with us, the Light of the World is come.

The Celebration of Baptism

Luke McLean Foster

The Prayer of Blessing and Commitment

*The Hymn of Praise, 157 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 63:7-9

Myra Brickell

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior
⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

The Christian Testament

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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 Musical Reflection

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Maureen Howell, arr.

The Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his

father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 150 "What Child Is This?" GREENSLEEVES

The Sermon "The Refugee Christ" Leah Reed

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 "Jesus Entered Egypt" CRANHAM

**Jesus entered Egypt
fleeing Herod's hand,
living as an alien
in a foreign land.
Far from home and country
with his family,
was there room and welcome
for this refugee?**

**Jesus was a migrant
living as a guest
with the friends and strangers
who could offer rest.
Do we hold wealth lightly
so that we can share
shelter with the homeless,
and abundant care?**

**Jesus crosses borders
with the wand'ring poor,
searching for a refuge,
for an open door.
Do our words and actions
answer Jesus' plea:
'Give the lowly welcome,
and you welcome me'?**

Words: Adam M. L. Tice, 2007
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906

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

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” Elaine Holley, violin
Craig Duncan

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Myra Brickell. A 38-year member, Myra serves on the Worship Committee, Finance Committee, and as a Director for the Preschool Division of Sunday School. She is a member of the Pathfinders Class and the Sanctuary Choir. She is also treasurer for the Thirty-Niners and an office volunteer. Myra and her husband Sterling have one daughter, Jessica Helms, and two grandsons, Asher and Ryder.

Dr. Chapman is on vacation for two weeks. Please contact the office or one of the other ministers if you need anything. Leah Reed is preaching today in his absence and Michael Hood will preach next week.

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 December 18, we have received 97 pledges totaling \$801,920 towards our goal of \$1,389,580.

End-of-year giving: Please continue to be faithful to your financial stewardship commitment. Your generous support toward this year's budget will allow us to end the year with a solid base on which to begin 2026. Year-end contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31. Please note that the church office will be closed through December 31, so no one will be able to receive your offering at the church office during that time.

The clothing ministry will be closed for all donations through January 7 while our volunteers are away for the holidays. We will resume accepting donations again on January 8. We are grateful for the church's continued support of this ministry.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation information about scheduled activities will be noted on a recorded greeting obtained by calling the office at 919-832-4485. Information will also be supplied to WRAL-TV (1st Baptist, Salisbury St), WTVD-TV (First Baptist Church-Salisbury St) and posted on our home page and on social media (Facebook, and Instagram).

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 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 • December 28–January 4

Sunday, December 28

- 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 FBC worship/baptism/Leah Reed preaching
(sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)

Monday, December 29–Thursday, January 1

Church office closed for electrical work and New Year's holiday

Monday, December 29

Clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, December 30

- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)

Wednesday, December 31

- 7:00 First Night Raleigh (sanctuary)

Sunday, January 4

- 9:45 Sunday School
11:00 FBC worship/Michael Hood preaching (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.