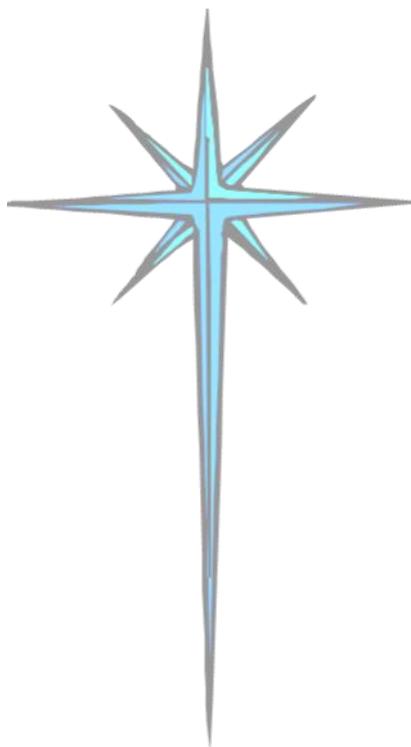


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 4, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 4, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: This morning we celebrate Epiphany. Today is the closest Sunday to January 6th, the annual date of the holiday which is 12 days after Christmas. Epiphany refers to the revealing of God's incarnation to the world through Jesus. This holy season focuses on ways in which Jesus shows himself to the world in the Gospel narrative, like with the Magi, his Baptism, and the Transfiguration. Our sermon explores the literary themes of the Gospel lesson and its disorienting nature. Our music for the morning reflects on the imagery of light shining in the darkness as we all walk into a new year together in the hope that Christ's presence brings to us.

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

"We Three Kings"
Fred Bock

Maureen Howell

The Introit

Sanctuary Choir

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
and usher in the morning.
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,
but hear the angel's warning:
this child, now weak in infancy,
our confidence and joy shall be,
the pow'r of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.

Words: Johann von Rist, 1641; John Troutbeck, trans., 1873

Music: Johann Schop, 1641; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1734

The Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 60:1-6

LEADER: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**PEOPLE: The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.
All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

LEADER: God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts,
we receive the abundance God gives.

**PEOPLE: We respond in praise.
With our whole selves, we worship God.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 27 “O Splendor of God's Glory Bright”

PUER NOBIS

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Tom Childrey

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- ²May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.
- ³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵May he live while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
- ¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
- ¹²For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
- ¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy
and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 Anthem

“Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year” Sanctuary Choir

Alfred Fedak

Now greet the swiftly changing year
with joy and penitence sincere;
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

His love abundant far exceeds
the volume of a whole year's needs;
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

This Jesus came to end sin's war;
the Name of names for us he bore;
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

With him as Lord to lead our way
in want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space
in this new year of grace?

“All glory be to God on high
and peace on earth,” the angels cry;
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
another year of grace.

Words: 17th cent. Slovakian hymn
Jaroslav J. Vajda, tr., 1968

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 162

“The First Noel”
(omit stanza 2)

THE FIRST NOEL

The Sermon

“Absolute Cinema”

Michael Hood

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, the Light of the World"

WALK IN THE LIGHT



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.
 2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.
 3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.
 4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,
 Join the tri - umph of the skies.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the



light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the



dew-drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -



round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

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

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Tom Childrey. Tom is a 32-year member of First Baptist who serves on the Finance Committee and is a member of the Formations Sunday School Class. Tom and his wife Maria have three daughters: Katie, Ann, and Caroline.

Dr. Chapman is on vacation through next weekend. Please contact the office or one of the other ministers if you need anything. Michael Hood is preaching today in his absence and Lynn Lingafelt will preach next week.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

For the mission project this month, we'll be providing warmth for the clients in the clothing ministry. We'll be accepting donations of sleeping bags, twin size blankets, and throws. Clean, gently used items are fine. Through January 7, you may place your donations in the marked drawer in the cabinet in the Lewis Lobby. After that, they can also be placed in the clothing ministry bin at the back door.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates for church conference in 2026: January 28, February 25, April 29, May 27, August 26, September 30, October 28, November 18, and December 16.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, January 7; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. Join us this week for an intergenerational game night!

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 January 7 is: curry chicken or tempeh with rice, cabbage, and carrots; kids: chicken fingers .

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.

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).

Calendar Highlights • January 4–11

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)

Monday, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 6

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

Wednesday, January 7

- 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, January 8

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

Sunday, January 11

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/Lynn Lingafelt preaching (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

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.



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.