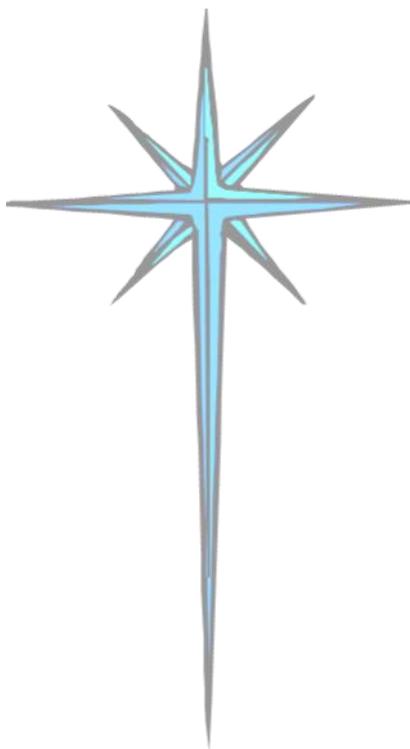


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



February 8, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 8, 2026

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: Today is the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, a season in which we ponder the meaning of God's manifestation of light and love to the whole world. In the reading from Matthew, Jesus names explicitly our identity and calling to be salt and light, noting that we are to share our gifts with the world, not hide them. In the reading from Isaiah, the prophet names the ways the covenant community often struggles to do so. It's not a matter of worshiping properly; it's a matter of living faithfully by confronting injustice and helping the poor. We pray for such a faith and sing praises to the God who inspires it. We conclude worship with the ordination of first-time deacons, leaders among us in the sharing of salt and light.

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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

"Take My Life"  
Chris Kovarik

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 112

LEADER: Happy are those who revere the Lord.

**PEOPLE: They delight in doing God's will.**

LEADER: They bring honor to their children.

**PEOPLE: Their hearts are steady.**

LEADER: They give of themselves to the poor.

**PEOPLE: They share their wealth with the needy.**

LEADER: They hold no worry for the future.

**PEOPLE: They fear not because they trust in God.**

LEADER: Their rising is like the sunrise,

**ALL: and their light shines upon the earth.**

**O Come, let us worship the God of life and light!**

“Longing for Light We Wait in Darkness”



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man-y the gifts, — man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone —
3. wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
3. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
4. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
5. to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell, 1993

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 58:1–9a

Sterling Brickell

<sup>1</sup>Shout out; do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“God Has Called Us”

Sanctuary Choir

Robert Hobby

God has called us, and how can we but raise our voices, echoing God’s praise?  
God has called us: and let us answer with our lives.

God has changed us, and how can we but live as servants of the Spirit’s gift?  
God has changed us: and let us worship with our lives.

God has charged us, and how can we but ask for wisdom for the Christly task?  
God has charged us: and let us labor with our lives.

Words: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1994

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

Matthew 5:13–16

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" I'M GONNA LIVE



I'm gon-na live so God can use me



an - y time and an - y - where.



I'm gon-na live so God can use me



an-y time and an-y - where.

2) I'm gonna work..., 3) I'm gonna pray..., 4) I'm gonna sing...

Words and Music: African American Spiritual

The Homily

Christopher Chapman

"What Matters Most for Deacons and the Rest of Us"

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### The Call to Commitment (responsive)

LEADER: These are the persons whom you have asked to be your deacons. Do you have anything to say to them?

PEOPLE: **We want to say that we hold you and your office in the highest esteem. We did not take lightly our choice of you. We do not take lightly our desire to have you lead us with courage, conviction, and compassion.**

DEACONS: *We are honored and humbled by this display of your confidence in our capacity to be servants of this people. We pledge to you that we will be responsible bearers of this trust.*

PEOPLE: **We charge you to give unselfishly to the wellbeing of our church. Be interpreters of our ministry to one another, to this community, and to the world. Be prophets, call us back to the hard truth we would sometimes rather forget. Be pastors to us in our sickness and sorrow. Be friends to us in times of stress and indecision.**

DEACONS: *By the grace of God, with your support and encouragement, we will do our best.*

LEADER: Are you, the congregation, willing to give yourselves, in cooperation and in fellowship, to these persons and to all others who have special responsibilities in the church?

PEOPLE: **We will work together, as we work with God, in the most exciting mission in the world: the developing of Christian community.**

ALL: ***Then, may God bless the work we do together. Amen.***

### The Invitation to the Ritual

### The Presentation of the Ordinands

Anna Daniels Anderson; Mary Lou Cunningham Dodd;  
Anita Ruth Jackson; William B. Loomis, Jr.;  
Robert John Rhodes; Elizabeth Raynor Santana;  
and James Aldean Webster, III

### The Laying on of Hands

*(Any who wish to do so are invited to come forward and offer a brief sentence-prayer of blessing for each candidate.)*

The Ordination Prayer

John Shell

The Presentation of Certificates

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, 568

HENDON

“Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated”

### 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

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Maureen Howell

Gregg Sewell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Call to Commitment is adapted from *The Worshiping Church*.

The Deacon on Call is Sterling Brickell. A 38-year member, Sterling serves on the Properties and Transportation Committees and is a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School class. He and his wife Myra have one daughter, Jessica Helms, and two grandsons, Asher and Ryder.

Thanks to Beth McCollum today for sharing her own hymn settings for violin and piano.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Rae and Will Sidner.

Today's pulpit parament is sponsored by Robert and Jan Ponton in memory of Robert's mother, Elizabeth H. Chamblee. A donation has been made to the Day Mission Fund.

Sympathy to Steve Austin on the January 24 death of his father Larry Austin and to Lorine Calloway on the January 30 death of her husband Albert.

For our February mission project, we are collecting boxes of individual servings of cocoa (not the canisters) and boxes of herbal teabags for the women who stay with us through the White Flag program. You may place them in the marked drawer of the cabinet in the Lewis Building lobby any time during the month of February.

Please note: due to inclement weather and lack of space in our intake area, the clothing ministry volunteers ask that you to hold all donations until Tuesday, February 10. Please check the church website for any updates.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, February 11; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. We continue our book study on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. This book explores the rising levels of anxiety among young people due to a shift from life being centered on play, exploration, and face-to-face relationships to being dominated by phones and social media. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details as well as for a Zoom link.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice)), by email ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu on February 11 is: pork chops with applesauce and macaroni and cheese; veg option: black bean burger.

Register now for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 17 at 5pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for registration and payment information.

*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. As of February 5, we have received 131 pledges totaling \$1,056,202 towards our goal of \$1,389,580.

Register now for our churchwide retreat to the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain on March 20–22. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for details and registration information.

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 • February 8–15

### Sunday, February 8

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ordination (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth Superbowl party (Foster home)

### Monday, February 9

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### Tuesday, February 10

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)

### Wednesday, February 11

- 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, February 12

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

### Sunday, February 15

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH  
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
99 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603  
(919) 832-4485 x201      Fax: (919) 832-6726      [www.fbcraleigh.org](http://www.fbcraleigh.org)

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.*