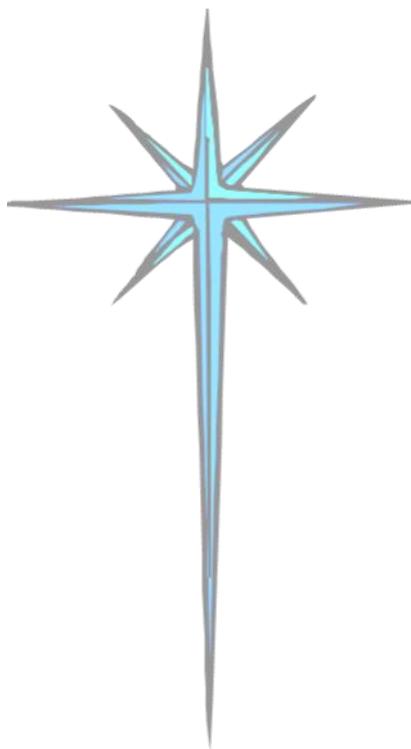


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



January 18, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, part of a season in which we celebrate and reflect upon the manifestation of God's love for the whole world. This love permeates all our texts today as Isaiah speaks of the prophetic calling to be a light to all nations, 1 Corinthians summarizes the saving work of Christ, and John describes Jesus' calling of his first disciples who will help extend God's reign of justice and love. This is also the weekend in which our nation honors the prophetic ministry of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a fellow Baptist who modelled God's all-inclusive love in a way that still challenges us to this day. The service connects these two themes with music, prayer, and liturgy. The sermon explores the second half of the reading from John, focusing on Jesus' interaction with two inquirers. The questions of this brief passage are jolting, but they lead to deep reflection, the formation of enduring relationships, and ultimately the transformation of lives.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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

"This Little Light of Mine"  
Calvin Taylor

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

from Psalm 40

LEADER: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust!

**PEOPLE: Who do not turn to the proud or go astray after false gods.**

LEADER: O Lord, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds toward us.

**PEOPLE: None can compare with you, O God.**

LEADER: Do not withhold your mercy from us, O Lord.

**PEOPLE: Let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep us safe forever.**

LEADER: Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver us.

**PEOPLE: You are our help and our deliverer.**

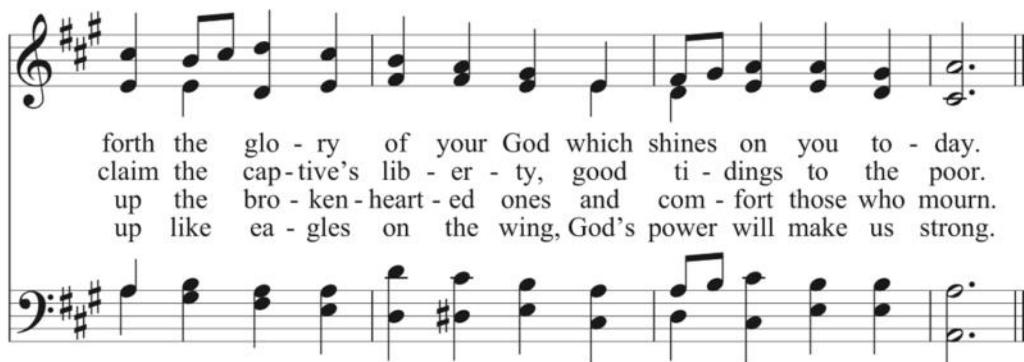
\*The Hymn of Praise

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

FESTAL SONG



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise



forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

Words: Ruth C. Duck, 1974  
Music: William H. Walter, 1894

\*The Invocation

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 49:1-7

Marchelle Flowers

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
<sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
<sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord  
and my reward with my God."  
<sup>5</sup>And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup>he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."  
I tell you of them.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“This Little Light of Mine”

Ken Berg, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Becky Mercer, flute

This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I’m going to let it shine.

All through the night, I’m going to let it shine.

Words and Music: African American Spiritual

## The Litany of Writings (responsive)

LEADER: In 1963 Dr. King said, “that the ultimate measure of humankind is never where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy.”

PEOPLE: **God give us courage to be counted among those who will work for justice.**

LEADER: In 1963 Dr. King challenged southern white clergy by saying, “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.”

PEOPLE: **God transform our stillness into action and our fear into courage.**

LEADER: From the teachings of Jesus, Thoreau, and Gandhi, Dr. King taught us that nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon because it “cuts without wounding and ennoble the one who wields it. Nonviolence is a sword that heals.”

PEOPLE: **God heal our world through the works of our hands.**

LEADER: Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King said that “unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. Right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

PEOPLE: **God strengthen us to trust and abide in the power of your goodness.**

LEADER: To the wealthiest nation in the world, in 1967 Dr. King offered an inclusive solution to the problems of poverty and racism: “a radical restructuring of the architecture of American society.”

PEOPLE: **God rearrange our priorities that all may receive in equal measure.**

LEADER: And on the day before his death, Dr. King gave voice to the meaning of his vocation: “I just want to do God’s will.”

PEOPLE: **God call willing prophets out from this community to do your will on earth.**

## 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, 198 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

MARGARET

## The Gospel

John 1:29–42

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## 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 Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

GALILEE

1. Je-sus calls us o'er the tu-mult Of our life's wild rest-less sea; Day by  
 2. Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship Of the vain world's gold-en store, From each  
 3. In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease, Still He  
 4. Je-sus calls us: by Thy mercies, Sav-ior, may we hear Thy call, Give our

day His sweet voice sound-eth, Say - ing, “Chris-tian, fol - low Me!”  
 i - dol that would keep us, Say - ing, “Chris-tian, love Me more.”  
 calls, in cares and plea-sures, “Chris-tian, love Me more than these.”  
 hearts to Thine o - be-dience, Serve and love Thee best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852  
 Music: William H. Jude, 1887

\*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

“Christus Paradox”

Sanctuary Choir

Alfred V. Fedak, arr.

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave. You, peacemaker and swordbringer of the way you took and gave. You the everlasting instant; You, whom we both scorn and crave. Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross, shining in eternal glory, beggar'd by a soldier's toss, You, the everlasting instant; You, who are both gift and cost.	You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side. You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide. You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our pilgrim guide. Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ! Worthy your defeat and vict'ry. Worthy still your peace and strife. You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our death and life. Alleluia.
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Words: Silvia Dunstan, 1991

Music: PICARDY, French Carol

\*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt

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

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

Maureen Howell

David German

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Litany of Writings is used by permission of the author, the Reverend Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., Dr. Chapman's former colleague in Winston-Salem who now serves as the first Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

The Deacon on Call is Marchelle Flowers. A 50-year member, Marchelle serves on the Infant-Toddler Board and is a member of the Unity Sunday School class. Marchelle is married to Greg Flowers.

Our offering helper is Camden Sasser, reminding us that no matter our age, we all can offer our gifts of thanksgiving to God.

The sponsorship of today's pulpit parament to benefit the Day Mission Fund is given by the Wade family.

Our youth boys' basketball season is well under way! We'd love to have you come join us for one of their games to cheer the team on! The next game is on January 23 at 6pm at Trinity Baptist Church .

On February 4 and 11, we will have a 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. A limited number of copies will be available in the church library or you may purchase your own copy and begin reading before the first session on February 4. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

For the mission project this month, we are providing warmth for the clients in the clothing ministry. We're accepting donations of sleeping bags, twin size blankets, and throws. Clean, gently used items are fine. You may place your donations in the marked drawer in the cabinet in the Lewis Lobby or 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 21; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. This week, Rev. Peggy Haymes, an ordained Baptist minister, licensed therapist, writer, and coach will be speaking about navigating different forms of grief after the holidays. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for 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 January 21 is: hamburger steak with gravy and onions and rice and peas; vegetarian option: veggie burger; kids: meatballs.

*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 January 16, we have received 126 pledges totaling \$1,038,220 towards our goal of \$1,389,580.

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 • January 18–25

### **Sunday, January 18**

- 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)

### **Monday, January 19** *MLK, Jr holiday*

- Church office and clothing ministry closed
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### **Tuesday, January 20**

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, January 21**

- 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 22**

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

### **Friday, January 23**

- 6:00 High school boys' basketball game (Trinity Baptist Church)

### **Sunday, January 25**

- 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  
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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.*