

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 1, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Second Sunday in Lent, as we continue to follow Jesus on the way to the cross, we encounter a man named Nicodemus who is interested in Jesus but hasn't decided yet whether he will follow him. He may seem like the kind of person to whom we might give witness about Christ, and in many ways, he is, but Nicodemus also has many attributes that we might learn from as we seek to be more faithful. We will consider these qualities today, as we sing hymns of faith, offer prayers of confession and intercession, and conclude worship with the celebration of communion.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

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

"Meditation on Veni Creator Spiritus"
Douglas Wagner

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 121

LEADER: From where will our help come?

PEOPLE: **Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

LEADER: Who is our keeper?

PEOPLE: **The Lord is our keeper,
by day and by night.**

LEADER: How long will God protect us?

PEOPLE: **God will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

The Invocation

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Gracious God, we come before you
 in need of forgiveness.
 You call us to trust in you completely,
 but we do not.
 We are timid as we follow your lead.
 We justify our actions and words,
 though we know they are not what you desire.
 We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,
 preferring old habits to risky change.
 Forgive us, we pray.
 Help us to be born again into the life of Christ,
 trusting that you have included us by grace
 in the family of faith.
 In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for -
 giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 12:1-4a

Jay Carothers

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 Hymn of Devotion, 558

BEECHER

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Helpful Qualities for All Who Seek an Ever-Maturing Faith”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Celebration of Communion

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

Sanctuary Choir

Gary Matheny

Sue Crocker, dir.

O living bread from heaven,
How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing,
O cup that heals our woes,
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows!

My Lord, you here have led me
Within your holiest place,
And here yourself have fed me
With treasures of your grace;
For you have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted,
This food can death destroy;
And you have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before your throne.

Words: Johann Rist, 1651

Catherine Winkwork, tr., alt.

Music: American, *The Sacred Harp*, 1850

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

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, 290

MORECAMBE

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

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

“Concerto on *Das ist der Tag, den Gott gemacht*”

Paul Fey

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Jay Carothers. A 32-year member, Jay serves on the Nominating and Hospitality Committees and is a greeter and a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. He and his wife Janie have two children, Claire and Parker.

Thanks to Sue Crocker and Tanner Winchester for their musical leadership in our worship this morning.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the February 20 birth of Krewe Dewayne Thomas. His parents are Kody and Leigh Thomas and his grandparents are Jeff Hobart, Holly Cook, Marcy Hobart, Dewayne Thomas and Heather Thomas.

The pulpit parament for today is sponsored by Jim and Jennie Keown in honor of the work done by Fellowship Fund. A donation has been made to the Day Mission Fund.

Please keep the 19 people returning from the youth choir trip to Charlotte today in your prayers.

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 March Mission Project, we are supporting the work of The Poe Center, which partners with schools and organizations to provide health education to both children and adults. We are collecting various first aid items, a list of which may be found in this Wednesday's issue of *Rose Window Weekly*. You may place your donations in the marked drawer in the cabinet in the Lewis lobby throughout the month.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 4; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm, in person and via Zoom (link may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*). March 4 and 11: Lenten Study: *Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent*. Berry's Sabbath poems were written as a spiritual practice of slowing down and paying attention to the presence of God in creation and daily life. LaCount Anderson will teach on March 4, and Dennis Ellis on March 11.

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 March 4 is: grilled chicken with quinoa bowl and asparagus, veggie medley, and chickpeas; veg option: same; kids: fresh fruit and yogurt.

Daylight Saving Time returns this Saturday night! Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour!

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 • March 1-8

Sunday, March 1

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Handbell rehearsal (302)

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:00 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Evening Bells rehearsal (302)
Children's Missions (preschool and children's suites)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, March 5

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners outing (Wake Co. Recycling Plant, 111 S. Rogers Ln)
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, March 8 *Daylight Saving Time resumes*

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:00 RA car race and hot dog lunch (302)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
Strengthening Families class (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301/302)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

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.