

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 15, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Fourth Sunday in Lent, we are led by multiple choirs and age groups which reflect the richness of our community of faith and the dedication of our members. The sermon considers the lengthy narrative of John 9 in which a man born blind is healed only to be interrogated by religious leaders as if he or Jesus has done something wrong. What might this story say about our ministry and how it might be received? How does Jesus deal with criticism? We respond to our hearing of God's word with the dedication of our gifts and lives.

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

"Gather Us In"
Jeanne Cotter

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart.

PEOPLE: **Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

LEADER: Once we lived in darkness, but now—
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.

PEOPLE: **Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

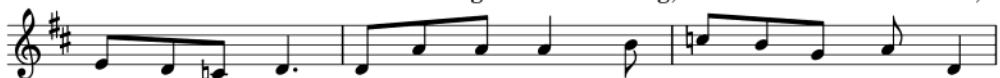
*The Hymn of Praise

“Here in this Place”

GATHER US IN



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



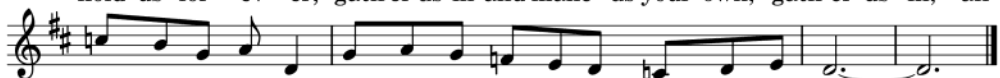
van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day. Gath-er us in and



lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haughty; gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so
 wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and
 hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in, all



we shall a-wak-en; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 meek and so low-ly; give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Word and Music: Martin Haugen, 1979

*The Invocation

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God of compassion and mercy,
we sometimes fail to see
what you are doing in the world.
We want you to act in ways we predict,
but we forget:
you do what is good, not what is expected.
Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles.
Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions.
Most of all, forgive us
when we do not respond to your call,
ignoring what we need to do
to show the world your love and grace.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Youth Choir

Allen Pote

The Lord is my shepherd. Nothing shall I want.
My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green,
leads me beside still waters.
The Lord is my shepherd who restores my life.
Leads me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of the Lord's name.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and in the house of my God I will live forever.

Words: adapted from Psalm 23
Music: Allen Pote, 1991 (abridged)

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ann Cobb

¹The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁸for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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.**

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already,

and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem "How Can I Keep from Singing?" Sanctuary Choir
Maureen Howell, arr. and Youth Choir

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be, I'll sing on!

Words: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt. and Alexander Means, 1848
Music: Robert Lowry, 1869

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“No Good Deed Goes Unpunished”

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, 499 “Lord, I Was Blind” O WALY WALY

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory “Wondrous Love Was There” Evening Bells
Sandra Eithun, arr. Anna Anderson, dir.

*The Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

Words: *A Lenten Doxology*, G.W. Shepherd, 2006
Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

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 “In Joyful Praise” Maureen Howell
Laurence Lyon

*The congregation may stand.

Calendar Highlights • March 15–22

Sunday, March 15

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 GA tea (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301/302)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

Monday, March 16

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, March 17

- 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 18

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
Mission planning meeting (229)
- 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 19

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

Friday, March 20–Sunday, March 22

Churchwide retreat (Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain)

Sunday, March 22

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/baptism (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)

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The Deacon on Call is Ann Cobb. A 30-year member, Ann participates in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, volunteers with the Funeral Committee, and is a substitute church office assistant. Ann is married to Britt Cobb.

Today's readers of the gospel are: Jonathan Babb, Caroline Bradley, Eller Collins, Asher Helms, Claire Willmschen Petty, and Elizabeth Yelverton.

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

The sanctuary flowers for today's worship are given in loving memory of Charles and Sallie Mae Brickhouse.

Easter is April 4. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of Easter lilies for our sanctuary, with the remaining funds benefitting the Day Mission Fund. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes or on our website — must be received with payment by Wednesday, April 1.

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 the *Rose Window Weekly*. You may place your donations in the marked drawer in the cabinet in the Lewis lobby throughout the month.

The CBF Annual Gathering will be held Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20, at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh. For more details and a link to register, see *The Rose Window Weekly*.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 18; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm, in person and via Zoom (link may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*). Shirnetta Harrell from the *No Woman No Girl Initiative* will join us this week to discuss the organization's work and the ongoing need for dignity-centered support for women in our community.

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 18 is: stir fry with beef and shrimp and rice; veg option: veggie stir fry; kids: spring rolls.

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 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.