

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 22, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2026

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: As we continue our Lenten journey and draw closer to the cross, we read texts that foreshadow what lies ahead — suffering and death yet also hope and new life. We begin with the celebration of baptism through which we proclaim a spiritual death and resurrection. We sing hymns of hope and possibility even in suffering. And we reflect on the balance between the earthly and the heavenly we find in scripture and the practices of our faith. We depart to live as people of hope in a world filled with despair.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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

“Shall We Gather at the River”  
Kurt Kaiser

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: We gather to worship the God who brings Israel back to life,  
pouring Spirit into the people.

PEOPLE: **We gather in the name of the Christ who calls forth Lazarus  
from the tomb, four days after he has died.**

LEADER: We are here because we have been embraced in love and pointed  
in the direction of a better path.

PEOPLE: **Buried with Christ in baptism, we are raised from death by  
the glory of God, so that we too might walk in newness of life.**

The Celebration of Baptism

Benjamin Casey Barrett

The Prayer of Blessing and Commitment

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**O Lord, if you held our sin against us,  
who could live, who could stand?  
We seem to have more faith in death  
than hope in your promise of life.  
We seek peace through war  
and find security in weapons.  
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,  
and pursue wealth by making others poor.  
And even so, you love us;  
still there is forgiveness with you!  
Therefore we worship you;  
for you alone, O Lord,  
can save us from death  
and redeem us from our sin. Amen.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923  
Music: Willaim M. Runyan, 1923

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Tom Childrey

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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.**

The Solo

“Sing Them Over Again to Me”  
Gilbert Martin, arr.

Greg Flowers

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was

going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion, 107 “Christ Be My Leader”

SLANE

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Maintaining a Balance between the Heavenly and the Earthly”

## 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, 295

TRENTHAM

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

## 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

“Spring Comes Early”

Maureen Howell

Mark Hayes

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Tom Childrey. Tom is a 33-year member of First Baptist who is a member of the Formations Sunday School Class. Tom and his wife Maria have three daughters: Katie, Ann, and Caroline.

Today's acolyte and Bible bearer are Eller and Martha Collins.

Today's pulpit parament is sponsored in loving memory of Gertrude and William Lassiter by their sons, John and Charles Lassiter. A donation has been made to the Day Mission Fund.

Sympathy to Brandon Britt on the death of his father, Myron Britt.

Keep in prayer the 76 people returning today from the churchwide retreat at the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain.

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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, March 25; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm, in person and via Zoom (link may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*). This week: *Thin Spaces, Thick Emotions: Finding God When It's Hard To Feel Okay*, led by counselor Nathan Blake. This workshop will help participants recognize signs of struggle with loneliness, anxiety, and depression and guide them in how to respond with compassion.

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 March 25 is: lamb and herb Mediterranean bowl with lentils, hummus, and cucumber salad; veg option: veggie hummus bowl; kids: baby carrots and peanut butter and jelly.

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 22–29

### 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)

### Monday, March 23

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

### Tuesday, March 24

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven board meeting (conference room)

### Wednesday, March 25

- 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 26

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Farmers' Market Restaurant)

### Sunday, March 29 *Palm Sunday*

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

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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.*