

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 26, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, what is often called the Shepherd Sunday because shepherd imagery runs through all the texts. We sing hymns that proclaim God's shepherd care, we offer prayers for others who need care, and we are led by the caring gifts of Music Made in Heaven. The sermon revisits some themes we have explored before, notably during the early months of COVID-19, but themes which remain critical for this time — about the character of God and Christ and thus how we are called to live. We depart with deeper gratitude for God's shepherd care and a renewed sense of commitment to caring for others with God.

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

“Blessed Assurance” Music Made in Heaven
with “Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring” Barbara Marley, director
Cynthia Dobrinski, arr.

The Call to Worship (responsive)

based on Psalm 23

LEADER: Praise to the Lord our shepherd, who gives us all we need for life.

PEOPLE: **We are fed in green pastures; we are washed in the calm waters of God's goodness.**

LEADER: God leads us on the path to life and comforts us in the darkest valley.

PEOPLE: **The Lord spreads a table for us before our enemies and anoints us with healing oil.**

LEADER: The cup of God's blessing overflows for us; God restores our life.

PEOPLE: **We will dwell in God's house our whole life long. Alleluia!**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 353 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Psalm 23:1-6

Sheila Jordan

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

“Down to the River To Pray” Music Made in Heaven
Kerry Johnston, arr.

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.**

¹“Very truly I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 522

BRADBURY

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Some Images of God Are More Helpful than Others”

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, 521

NYLAND

“In Heavenly Love Abiding”

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

“Hornpipe in D”

Maureen Howell

John S. Dixon

*The congregation may stand.

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A Unique Community Handbell Ensemble

Music is one of the most universal means of expression and an ongoing link to the memory of loved ones. In honor and remembrance of their children who passed away, a group of parents created a handbell choir in 2004 as a continuing expression of their love for God and their joy in the gift of these children.

Our handbells are individually donated and carry a child's name and unique inscription created by the parents in each handle. Some of the current ringers are parents or relatives of these children.

The music played by the bells representing our children is unlike any other — it is a beautiful contribution the children are continuing to make to the world each time we ring. From this symbolism comes the name of the ensemble: *Music Made in Heaven*.

Ringers:

Joanne Glassford Tammy Hammer Sabrina Tyndall

Ann Lowe Vodicka Dee Munro Phil Herold

Jo Ann Williford Elise Pangborn Ruth Stevens

Rob Walker TJ Settle Patricia Smith Sterling Smith

Barbara Marley, Director

Our Children

Haywood Griffin Alexander, Jr.	Thomas Richard Glassford	Carol Jean Pigott
George Morris Ashcraft	Corey Chapman Haddon	Martha Robertson Powell
Brenda B. Bailey	Lisa Permar Ham	Amanda Quick
Joy Wagner Bailey	Tara Bliss Hatley	Baby John Parker Shell
Baby Barham	Meredith Lee Herold	Mark Edward Simpson
Janet Logan Barnes	Robert Tomlinson Hill	Lacy Sheppard Skirvin
Steven Harris Bergman	Kristin Suzanne Jones	Preston Ray Skirvin
Janet Faith Briggs	Suzie Jones	Amanda Paige Smith
Tammy Briggs	David Michael Kosturko	Charles Harrison Smith, III
Blayne Brown	Amy Lynne Latus	Eric Scott Smith
Bryan Brown	Matthew William Lee	Joseph Drew Smith
Bethany Rush Cartledge	Natalie Jean Lippard	Paul Michael Spampinato
Robin B. Conrad	Jaime McSpadden	Larry E. Stafford
Jimmy Dickinson	Nicolas McSpadden	Andrew Achilles Stratas
Jackson Todd Dixon	Eric Thomas Metcalf	Lauren A. Thompson
Sarah Carlyle Herbert Dorroh	Gary Ryle Minor	Shae Marie Tomlin
Jasmine Dominique Douglas	Nicholas Joseph Miracola	Donna Lynn Crocker Toms
Robert Cording Dower	Carol Cope Myers	Mark Adam Tucker
Annie Shea Eaton	Dana Lyn Nelson	Sarah Abigail Tyndall
Macy Wray Erickson	Sean Hugh O'Donnell	Kathryn Elaine Waters
D. Gordon Freeman, Jr.	Alexandra Caroline Paccone	Amy Kirsten Whiteman
Nick Galanos	Derek Wallace Pearson	Malia Scott Winberry
Julie Ann Glassford	Jill Perlette	Ben Woodruff
	Baby Piepho	The Sandy Hook Community

Music Made in Heaven cordially invites you to attend "The Gathering" on Sunday, May 17, 2pm in the fellowship hall. This annual concert will feature several pieces performed by our community handbell choir, along with the traditional reading of inscriptions in our bells honoring the children for whom they have been donated. A reception will follow. Free and open to all; donation baskets available.

The Deacon on Call is Sheila Jordan. A 42-year member of First Baptist, Sheila is the president of the Everette Miller-Friendship Sunday School class, serves as the chair and council rep of the Social Committee, and volunteers in the church office. She and her husband Jerry Washington live in Raleigh.

Charley and Logan Teague are our acolyte and Bible bearer today.

Today's banner is given in honor of Matt Bullard by Chuck and Susan Nichols. As he celebrates his 70th birthday, we celebrate our many years of friendship since we began law school together in 1978 and the growth of that friendship to embrace Anne, our children, and our grandchildren. We also honor his many years of service to this church and its missions.

In an effort to keep our database current, we ask that if you have had any changes to your address, phone number, email address, or family status, please let the church office know by emailing Jennie Herrick at jherrick@fbcraleigh.org.

Our mission project this month supports *The No Woman No Girl Initiative*, which provides hygiene supplies to individuals and families through family distribution events and street outreach. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for a list of needed supplies that you may purchase and donate. Place your donations in the marked drawer of the cabinet in the Lewis Lobby.

Church conference: Wednesday, April 29; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and meeting at 6pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and Zoom link.

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 April 29 is: white bean chili with corn bread, veggies, and fruit; kids: fresh fruit.

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 • April 26–May 3

Sunday, April 26

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (Lake Crabtree)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (302/Zoom)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (307/311)
- 6:15 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
Evening Bells rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, April 30

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners outing: Raleigh Trolley, Sam Jones' BBQ (1 Mimosa Street; 502 West Lenoir Street)

Sunday, May 3

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
Evening bells rehearsal (302)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor

J. Daniel Day, Pastmeritus

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.