

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 3, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

Eleven o'clock

**A**bout our Worship: The biblical texts for the Fifth Sunday of Easter portray the church as a dwelling place with God which is so secure that nothing, not even death, can destroy it. The worship music reflects this theme of an enduring home with God, one that is made possible by Christ, and one in which all people are welcome. The sermon explores the way this theme is addressed in the reading from 1 Peter which uses multiple images for our relationship with God and one another, all rooted in Jewish tradition. We deepen these relationships 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

Maureen Howell

"How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place (Psalm 84)"

Robert Lau

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 31

LEADER: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame.

PEOPLE: **In your righteousness deliver me.**

LEADER: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

PEOPLE: **Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 517

“The Solid Rock”

SOLID ROCK

*(Stanza 1, choir only; stanza 2–4, all)*

### LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 7:55–60

Stan Crocker

<sup>55</sup>But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup>At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup>dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.

Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are the people of God;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

“My House”

Niya Petkova, solo

Will you build me a house?  
A house that really will be mine.  
Then let me give you my design.  
A simple scheme of ... the house I dream of.  
Build my house of wood. Build my house of stone.  
Build my house of brick and mortar.  
Make the ceiling strong. Strong against the storm.  
Shelter when the days grow shorter.  
But build my house of love. And paint my house with trusting.  
And warm it with the warmth of your heart;  
Make the floor of faith. Make the walls of truth.  
Put a roof of peace above; Only build my house of love.

Words and music: Leonard Bernstein, from *Peter Pan*, 1950

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.**

<sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going.”  
<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”  
<sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup>Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.  
<sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

**LEADER:** This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

## The Anthem

## “Crowded Table”

Andrea Ramsey, arr.  
 Becky Mercer, dir.

Youth Choir  
 Claire Carothers,  
 Cady Mercer, solos  
 Elaine Holley, violin

You can hold my hand when you need to let go.  
 I can be a mountain when you're feeling valley low.  
 I can be a streetlight showing you the way home.

I want a house with a crowded table, and a place by the fire for everyone.  
 Let us take on the world while we're young and able,  
 and bring us back together when the day is done.

If you want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seed,  
 plant a little happiness, let the roots run deep.  
 If it's love that we give, then it's love that we reap.

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Genuine Affirmation of Our Worth”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

Becky & Cady Mercer, flutes

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

The Cup Is Shared

“In Remembrance” (from *Celebrate Life*) Sanctuary Choir

Buryl Red

Cady Mercer, flute

LaCount Anderson, dir.

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine,

In remembrance of me pray for the time when God’s own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your neighbor in.

Take, eat, and be comforted, Drink and remember, too,

That this is my body and precious blood shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don’t look above, but in your heart, look for God.

Words: Ragan Courtney

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, 700

“We Are God’s People”

SYMPHONY

## 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

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Stan Crocker. A 59-year member, Stan sings in the Sanctuary Choir and is a member and teacher of the Journey Sunday School class. He and his wife Sue have two grown children—Lee and Joseph.

We thank LaCount Anderson for directing the adult choir and Becky Mercer for directing the youth choir today.

Class of 2026, congratulations! If you are graduating from college, email Jennie Herrick ([jherrick@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:jherrick@fbcraleigh.org)) by Friday, May 22, with the following information for our church's publications: graduate's name, college, degree, and your relationship to the graduate, and any family connections within our church.

Centerpoint: Wednesday night, May 6, meal served at 5pm, program at 6:15pm. This week, we will have our annual Spring Music Celebration. Join us for performances by our Pre-K/Kindergarten and Grade-school choirs and the Evening Bells and recognition of our children and leaders.

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 May 6 is: fajitas; kids: chips and salsa.

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 • May 3–10

### Sunday, May 3

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

### Monday, May 4

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

### Tuesday, May 5

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

### Wednesday, May 6

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (307/311)
- 6:15 Music Celebration (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

### Thursday, May 7

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

### Sunday, May 10

- 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, 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.*