

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 10, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: As we near the end of the Easter season, we consider one final part of Jesus' Farewell Discourse in which he tries to prepare his disciples for the time when they will have to live with his absence, at least in a physical form. We offer prayers of gratitude for the gifts God uses to sustain us, especially in difficult times. We are nurtured by sacred music which points to God's love and our calling to reflect this love in our daily lives. We experience God's presence here in worship and seek to enable others to share this experience in the ways we live each day.

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

"I Love Thee, My Lord"
George Shearing

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Our God gathers us here.

PEOPLE: **We have been tested, we have suffered,
but God has brought us through.**

LEADER: Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

PEOPLE: **We cried aloud to God,
and God listened and answered.**

LEADER: Therefore, we will praise God with shouts of joy!

PEOPLE: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Introit

"Celtic Alleluia"

Sanctuary Choir
and congregation

(All on repeat)



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, 1985

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 20

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

ODE TO JOY

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Wes Fulk

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

"The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"



1., 5. The Church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2. True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3. True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4. If what we have we free - ly share to



walls of wood or stone. Where
 step in - to the street. True
 jus - tice is de - nied. True
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then



char - i - ty and love are found, there
 serv - ice will seek out the poor and
 mer - cy hears the home - less cry and
 we ex - tend the Spir - it's care through



can the Church be known.
 ask to wash their feet.
 wel - comes them in - side.
 ev - 'ry self - less deed.

Words: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

Music: African American Spiritual, adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

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 Gospel

John 14:15-21

¹⁵Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Anthem

"If Ye Love Me"

Sanctuary Choir

Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; E'en the Spirit of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

John 14:15-18, KJV

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"Practical Help for Difficult Times"

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, 91 "I Love You, My Jesus" LOVE TO CHRIST

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 "Voluntary on MCKEE" Maureen Howell
Dale Wood

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Wes Fulk. A 31-year member, Wes is a member of the Church Nominating Committee and a member of the Sharing Thoughts Sunday School Class. He and his wife Renee have two children, Owen and Chloe.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Bill and Steve Simpson by Edith Simpson.

Camden and Charlotte Sasser are our acolyte and Bible bearer today.

Class of 2026, congratulations! If you are graduating from college, email Jennie Herrick (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 13, meal served at 5pm, program at 6pm. This week, we will have a service project for the clothing ministry. Join us in room 301 to write cards of encouragement and love to our guests. We are also collecting stickers that can be handed out by volunteers to children to brighten their day.

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 May 13 is: pasta bar.

Please keep the 24 people going on the youth retreat to Camp Caraway this weekend in your prayers. They leave Friday, May 15, and return Sunday, May 17.

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." 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 10–May 17

Sunday, May 10

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)

Monday, May 11

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:00 Adult Ministries Council meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, May 12

- 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 13

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 All-Missions Night (FH)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (301)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, May 14

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

Friday, May 15–Sunday, May 17

Youth Retreat to Camp Caraway

Sunday, May 17

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (302/Zoom)
- 2:00 Music Made in Heaven concert (FH)
- 3:00 Reception for MMiH concert (FH)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH

Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

99 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

(919) 832-4485 x201 Fax: (919) 832-6726 www.fbcraleigh.org

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.