

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



May 17, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
ASCENSION OF THE LORD SUNDAY

May 17, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Seventh Sunday of Easter in the Christian year and the day we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord (technically May 14 this year). We are using the texts for Ascension Day, celebrating the completion of Christ's work and pondering our responsibilities as his witnesses in this world. The worship music reflects these themes, and we pray for Christ's reign of justice and love to extend further, while the sermon considers the calling Jesus gives his disciples and how he helps them to fulfill it. We depart with a deeper sense of gratitude for the privilege of service.

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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

"Solemn Melody"  
Walford Davies

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 47

LEADER: Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,

**PEOPLE: for God reigns over all the earth!**

LEADER: God has gone up with a shout!

**PEOPLE: Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!**

The Invocation

\*The Hymn of Praise, 95 “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

CORONATION

### LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Tyson Graves

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15–23

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 Anthem

“Alleluia (O Clap Your Hands)”  
Debbie Wiseman

Sanctuary Choir

Alleluia.  
O clap your hands together all ye people.  
O sing unto God with the voice of melody  
for the Lord is high and to be revered.  
He is the great King upon all the earth.

Words: Psalm 47:1-2, BCP

The Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

\*The Hymn of Devotion “An Open Hand, a Willing Heart”

OPEN HAND  
Becky Mercer, flute



An o - pen hand, a will - ing heart, a gen - tle word, a chal - lenge,  
A stir - ring call, a nar - row road, a liv - ing dream, a prom - ise,  
All worlds re - born, all deaths un - done, all things in God u - nit - ed,



Spir - it, breathe in - to this church, the ris - en bod - y of Christ.

Words: Adam M.L. Tice, 2013  
Music: Warren Howell, Maureen Howell, arr. 2024

The Sermon

“Work To Do”

Christopher Chapman

## 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, 743

ITALIAN HYMN

“Christ for the World! We Sing”

\*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Sanctuary Choir

Malcolm Archer

Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Mortals, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When He had purged our stains,  
He took His seat above.

His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given.

He sits at God's right hand  
Till all His foes submit,  
And bow to His command,  
And fall beneath His feet.

Rejoice, the Lord is King:  
Your Lord and King adore!  
Mortals, give thanks and sing,  
And triumph evermore.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

\*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose pow'r uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt.

## 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

“Toccata in Seven”

Maureen Howell

John Rutter

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Tyson Graves. A 35-year member, Tyson is a member of The Journey Sunday School class. He and his wife Ginger have one son, Zachary, and a grandson, Owen.

Today's pulpit parament is given by Joann Cooper in honor of our music ministry led by Warren and Maureen Howell, as well as Rhonda Lowe for directing the children's choir.

Last week's sanctuary flowers were given in loving memory of Bill, Mark, and Steve Simpson by Edith Simpson.

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

Sympathy to the family of Rebecca Clayton, who died May 11, and to the family of Charles Parker, who died May 14.

Please keep the 24 people returning today from the youth retreat to Camp Caraway in your prayers.

Dr. Chapman will be away on vacation from Wednesday, May 20–Wednesday, May 27. On May 24, Dennis Ellis will preach in his absence.

The annual church picnic is Wednesday, June 3, 5–7pm, at Pullen Park (shelter #4). Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on. 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 for that night is: hot dogs and burgers with potato salad, cole slaw, and baked beans; veg option: veggie burgers. Please prepay online or at the kiosk—we cannot collect money at the park.

Register now for VBS, July 27–31, 9am–12pm. More information and a registration form may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*.

Centerpoint: Wednesday night, May 20, meal served at 5pm, program at 6pm. This week is our annual Mission Celebration Night. Our RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends have adapted the way field personnel and missionaries serve communities that they are a part of to create a hands-on mission night with stations to rotate through so we can meet the needs of people in our own community.

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 20 is: barbecue chicken with brown-butter corn and veggies; veg option: mock barbeque chicken; kids: mac and cheese.

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.

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 17–24

### 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)

### Monday, May 18

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance committee meeting (Zoom)

### Tuesday, May 19

- 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 20

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's Missions (PS/CS)
- 6:15 Mission Celebration (FH)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310)

### Thursday, May 21

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

### Sunday, May 24

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/Dennis Ellis preaches (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.*