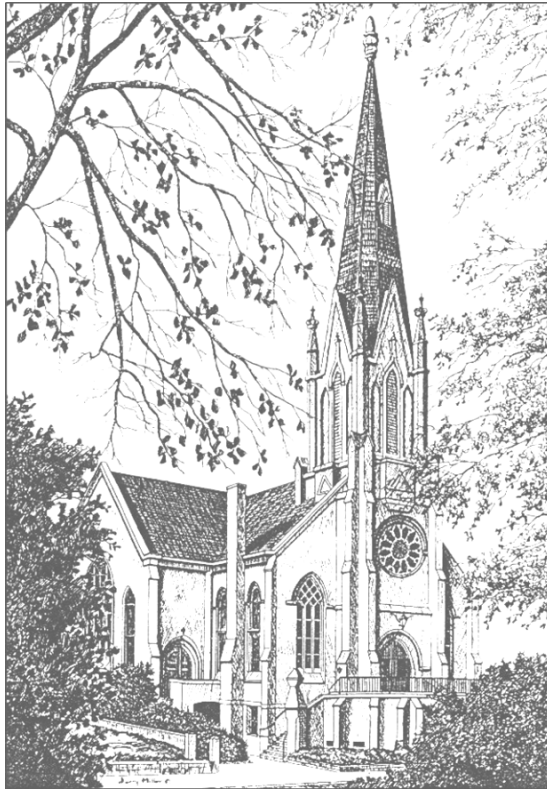


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



June 21, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 21, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. It is a season to ponder possibilities for growth, which is why we wear green stoles and use our green altar cloth. Today's texts invite us to grow in our understanding of salvation, calling, and biblical interpretation. The latter is the focus of the sermon, a task almost mandated by Jesus' seemingly harsh words about the family. Yet all our discernment of complex issues is grounded in God's unmistakable acts of mercy and love which inspire songs of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, and service to the world.

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

"Peace Prayer"
David Lasky

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

Psalm 69, selected verses

Refrain

In your great love, O Lord, have mer-cy.
I trust in you, in you a - lone.

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 2008

Music: WAFARIN' STRANGER, Appalachian folk

Let those who search for you not use me as a guide, O Heart of Hearts.
Let those who seek to do your will abandon themselves into your keeping.
I pray to you for the time of your favor, O God!
Your faithful love is abundant; O that you would answer me!
Do not conceal your face from your servant. Make haste to answer me, in
your great love.

Adapted from Psalms Anew, Nancy Schreck, OSF and Psalms for Praying, Nan C. Merrill

The Invocation (unison)

**God our rock and salvation,
you have called us to follow you;
give us courage to do so.
You have called us to love you above all;
give us confidence to do so.
When the waters of life rage against us,
hear our prayers, steady our feet,
and anchor us in your word,
that we might proclaim your presence
in the midst of turmoil. Amen.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 60

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Mary Powell Rhodes

⁷O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹²O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed[a] from sin. ⁸But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Shall We Gather at the River?”

Sanctuary Choir

John Carter, arr.

Greg Flowers, solo

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown.

Deep river, my home is over Jordan, I want to cross over into campground.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

Words and Music: Robert Lowry, 1864
and African American Spiritual

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.**

²⁴Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 461 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

ABERYSTWYTH

The Sermon

“Interpretation Is Required” 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, 651

MARYTON

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“Meditation on MARYTON”

Maureen Howell

Alice Jordan

*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!**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, adapt.
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623

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 ABERYSTWYTH”

Maureen Howell

Sam Batt Owens

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Mary Powell Rhodes. A 48-year member, Mary Powell serves on the Community Ministries committee and volunteers in the clothing ministry. She is also co-chair of the Prayer Circle via Email and a member of the Prayer Shawl Group, the Evening Bells, and Pathfinders Class. Mary Powell and her husband Bob have two grown children, Sarah Catherine Rhodes and J.D. Rhodes.

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

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Colonel and Mrs. William T. Joyner by their family.

Sympathy to Christina Davis on the June 15 death of her daughter.

For our June mission project, we are supporting our downtown police officers. We asked the officers what items would be useful to them, and we are now working on gathering those items. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for the list and place your donations in the marked drawer of the cabinet in the Lewis Lobby throughout the month.

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

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.

Calendar Highlights • June 21–28

Sunday, June 21

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

Monday, June 22

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

Tuesday, June 23

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

Thursday, June 25

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 12:00 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Meadow Restaurant, Benson)

Sunday, June 28

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



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.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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Rev. Dr. Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor

Rev. Warren Howell, Music

Rev. Dr. J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Lynn Lingafelt, Children

Rev. Michael Hood, Youth/College

Rev. Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor

Maureen Howell, Organist/Music Assistant

Rev. Leah Anderson Reed, Community

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.