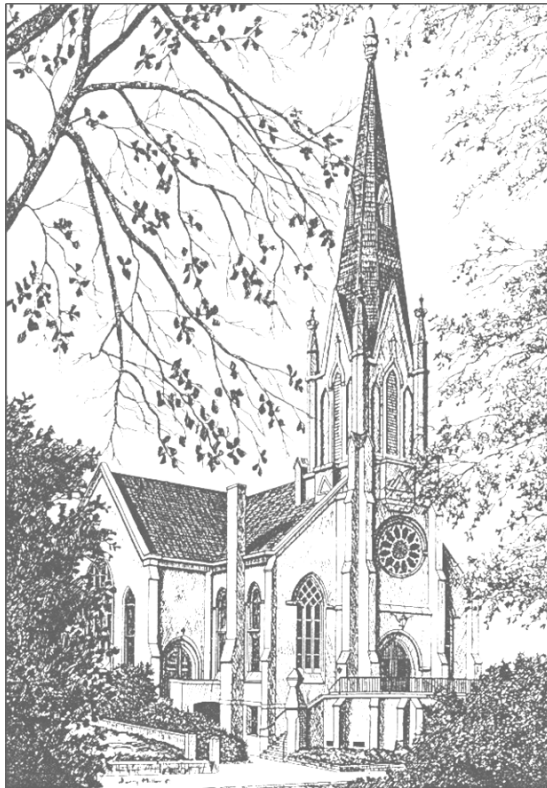


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 19, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: We consider another parable of Jesus today about sowing and reaping. Agricultural metaphors connected with almost everyone in the ancient world, though the disciples still needed help understanding what Jesus was saying. Today's parable is about the presence of good and evil and what to do about the latter, whether to administer judgment or leave that to God. While not as many of us are well versed in agriculture, we understand the realities described and explore the implications of Jesus' teaching in the sermon. We sing praises to the God who tempers judgment with grace, we pray for clarity for how to live faithfully in a time when many things are not in keeping with God's design, and we respond to our understanding of God's calling with financial gifts and the dedication of our lives.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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

"How Firm a Foundation"
arranged for piano and handbells
Anne Krentz Organ

Anna Anderson

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 86

LEADER: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;

PEOPLE: **give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

LEADER: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

PEOPLE: **and I will glorify your name forever.**

LEADER: For great is your steadfast love toward me;

PEOPLE: **you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

LEADER: The insolent rise up against me; bullies try to diminish my life.

PEOPLE: **But you, O Lord, are merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

LEADER: Show me a sign of your favor,

PEOPLE: **so that those who trouble me may see that you have helped me.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 45 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 44:6–8

John Liverman

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Come, Ye That Love the Lord”

Sanctuary Choir

Early American Hymn, Alice Parker, arr. LaCount Anderson, dir.

Come, ye that love the Lord, and let your love be known;
join in a song of sweet accord and thus surround the throne.

The sorrows of the mind be banished from this place;
religion never was designed to make our pleasures less.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the Heavenly King may speak their joys abroad.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707

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

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

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, 486

WELLESLEY

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

*The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

Anna Anderson

Gayden Sikes, arr.

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

And praise the Spirit evermore —

The Triune God, whom we adore.

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551
Words: Thomas Ken, 1695 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

“In Celebration: The Solid Rock”

Anna Anderson

Gayden Sikes, arr.

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is John Liverman. A two-time FBC member (1989–1996 and 2022–current), John is a teacher for the Connections Sunday School class. He is also a “Big Buddy” and serves in Extended Session. He and his wife, Lou Anne, have an adult son, Henry, and an adult daughter, Ellen.

We thank Anna Anderson for playing the piano and organ and LaCount Anderson for directing our choir this morning. Our handbell ringers are Mary Hauser, Lynn Marshbanks, Pam Powell, and Hollis Yelverton.

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

The sanctuary flowers are gratefully given in loving memory of O. H. and Madge Dillard by their family.

At church on Sunday, July 26, we will host the All State Youth Choir, a group of 28 high-school-age singers—four of whom go to our church: Jay Foster, Charlotte Phillips, Alice Strickland, and Jesse Vogel—traveling through NC this summer. For more information about the choir and their tour, please see the *Rose Window Weekly*.

As our children gather for VBS this month, they will be collecting items for a school located in La Fortunita, Honduras, which has very limited resources. The churchwide mission project this month will also collect books, crayons, and coloring books for the school. Your donations may be placed in the marked drawer in the Lewis lobby cabinet. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for a specific list of items.

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.

Calendar Highlights • July 19–26

Sunday, July 19

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

Monday, July 20

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

Tuesday, July 21

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

Thursday, July 23

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 11:30 Thirty-Niners lunch outing (Parkside Restaurant, 301 W. Martin St)

Sunday, July 26

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Combined FBC/JBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
All-State Youth Choir lunch (301/302)



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. 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.