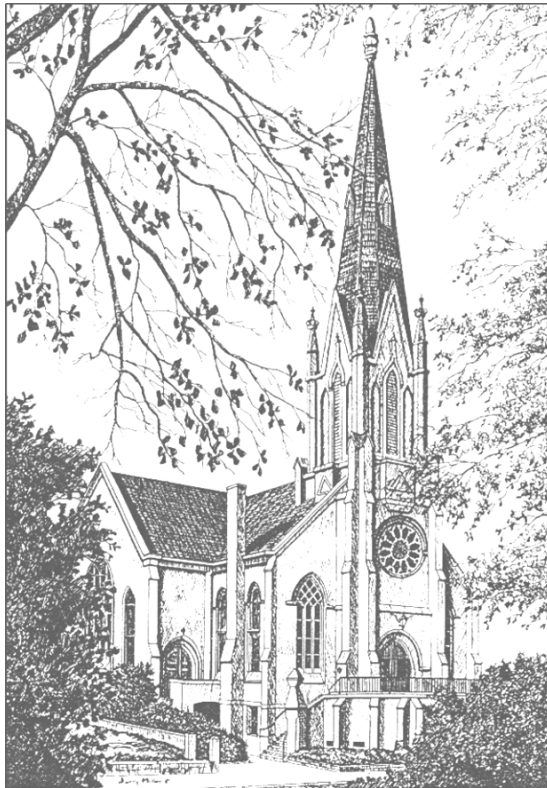


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 26, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, we consider another set of parables of Jesus which paint a picture of the realm of God. While there is less explanation than in the parables we considered the last two weeks, Jesus explains through repetition this time, launching five short parables in rapid succession to drive home his messages. We ponder their meaning and the nature of God's realm, we pray for its growth, and we sing songs of praise and celebration for the beloved community God makes possible, giving special thanks for the leadership of the All State Youth Choir of North Carolina.

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

"All Creatures of Our God and King"
Hal H. Hopson

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship

"Shout for Joy!"
Dan Davison

All-State Youth Choir
Nana Wolfe Hill, dir.

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 356 "All Creatures of Our God and King" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

1 Kings 3:5–12

Bill Loomis

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

All-State Youth Choir

“Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)”

Lloyd Larson, arr.

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.**

“Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace”

Mary McDonald

“Come to Me”

Dan Forrest

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31–33,44–52

³¹He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion

"The Reign of God"

McKEE



1. The reign of God, like farm - er's field, Bears
2. Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God From
3. Though hid - den now, the reign of God May,
4. The reign of God is come in Christ; The



weeds a - long with wheat; The good and bad are
ti - ny seed will spread, Till birds of ev - 'ry
yet un - no - ticed, grow; From deep with - in it
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined Till har - vest is com - plete.
feath - er come To nest, and there be fed.
ris - es up, Like yeast in swell - ing dough.
kind - ling hearts, The reign of God is here!

Words: Delores Dufner, 2003

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

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"Making Sure the Parables Land"

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.

(Singing vs. 1-3, 5)



1. For ev - ery - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,
2. For wom - an and man,	a place at the ta - ble,
3. For young and for old,	a place at the ta - ble,
4. For just and un - just,	a place at the ta - ble,
5. For ev - ery - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born,	clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles,	de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard,	a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused,	with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear,	and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space,	a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace,	di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child	in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt,	a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out,	to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born,	a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man,	a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old,	the right to be - long.
for just and un - just,	a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born,	the right to be free.



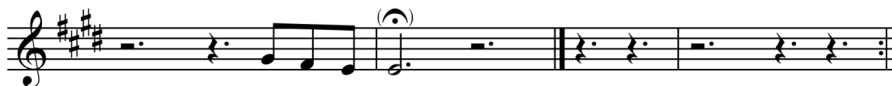
And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

The Musical Benediction “Write Your Blessed Name” All-State Youth Choir
K. Lee Scott

*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 “Blow Up the Trumpet in the New Moon” Maureen Howell
Gilbert M. Martin

*The congregation may stand.

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We welcome the All State Youth Choir of North Carolina, 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. They are sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina and directed by Dr. Nana Wolfe Hill. If you're interested in hearing their full concert, their last performance is this evening at 6pm at First Baptist on Fifth in Winston-Salem.

This ministry relies solely on the generosity of churches to help offset the cost of the week for participating students. You will find offering baskets at each exit today if you would like to contribute. Thank you for your support!

The Deacon on Call is Bill Loomis. A twenty-eight year member and first-term deacon, Bill is a member of the Everett Miller Friendship Sunday School class. He and his wife, Lynn, live in Raleigh.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Crosby and Daniel Rohrbaugh.

Today's pulpit parament is presented by LaCount and Anna Anderson in appreciation for the many volunteers who serve the community through our clothing ministry. A gift to the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund has been made in their honor.

Keep the eight people going on the senior trip to Atlanta this week in your prayers. They will be gone from Wednesday, July 29, through Saturday, August 1.

Join us each Wednesday at 7:15pm on Zoom for an intergenerational Bible study. This week we will discuss Jesus; feeding of the five thousand. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for the scripture readings and the Zoom link.

During VBS this week, the children will be collecting items for a school located in 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.



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 • July 26–August 2

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 27–Friday, July 31

VBS (building-wide)

Monday, July 27

- 10:00 Clothing ministry

Tuesday, July 28

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 CPR training (fellowship hall)
Yoga (320)

Wednesday, July 29–Saturday, August 1

Senior trip to Atlanta, GA

Wednesday, July 29

- 10:00 Summer Bible study (Bojangles)
- 7:15 Bible study (Zoom)

Thursday, July 30

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, August 2

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

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

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.