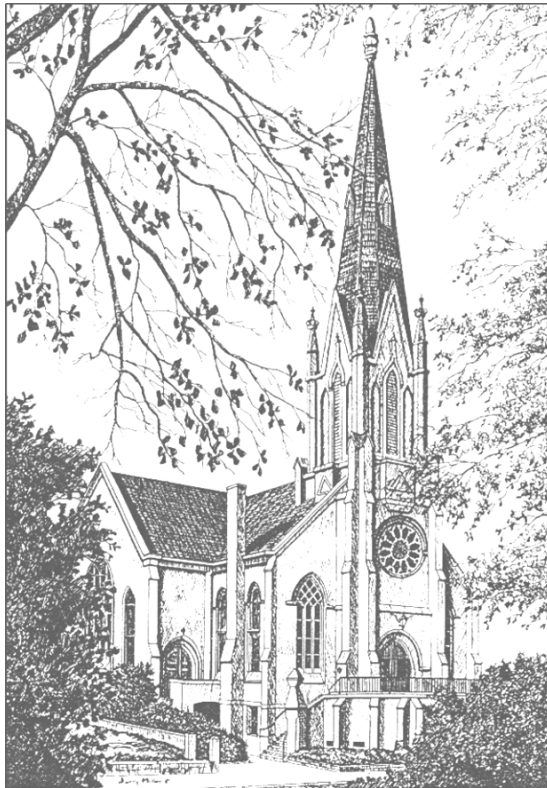


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



July 5, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. It is also the weekend when we celebrate our national independence, yesterday being the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Thus, while our worship is shaped primarily by biblical texts chosen for this day in the Christian year, we gather today in gratitude for our heritage, remembering the role our Baptist forebears played in establishing a framework in our founding documents which guarantees religious liberty. The Litany in Celebration of Religious Liberty lifts up the voices of many of these forebears. We pray today for those around the world who are not free to express their faith openly and for our own ongoing challenge to preserve religious liberty, we sing praises to the God who leaves us free to respond to Divine Love as our conscience dictates, and in the sermon we consider parallels between Jesus' offer of rest for the weary found in the reading from Matthew and the text of Emma Lazarus' poem "The New Colossus" which is housed in the Statue of Liberty. As Church and State are intended to be separate in our nation, for the benefit of both, we seek not to confuse our loyalties here, but simply to recognize the places where our best aspirations resonate with Jesus' teachings.

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

"Chorale-Prelude on St. COLUMBA"
Dale Wood

Stephen Schaeffer

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 145

LEADER: The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is good to all,
extending compassion to all that is made.**

LEADER: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

PEOPLE: **They shall speak of the glory of your realm
and tell of your power.**

LEADER: The Lord is faithful in all words
and gracious in all deeds.

PEOPLE: **The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 419

“God of Our Fathers”

NATIONAL HYMN

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Zechariah 9:9–12

Elizabeth Riley

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

¹⁸For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 Litany in Celebration of Religious Liberty (responsive)

LEADER: Magistrates are not by virtue of their office to meddle with religion or matters of conscience, to force or compel people to this or that form of religion. (John Smyth, 1612)

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.**

LEADER: No king nor bishop can or is able to command faith. That is the gift of God. To constrain princes and peoples to receive the one true religion of the gospel is wholly against the mind and merciful law of Christ. (Leonard Busher, 1614)

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.**

LEADER: Every person ought to be left free with respect to matters of religion. The Holy Author of our religion needs no compulsive measures for the promotion of God's cause. (General Committee of Baptists in Virginia, 1785)

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.**

LEADER: Everyone must give a personal account to God, and therefore all people ought to be at liberty to serve God in a way that each can best reconcile to (their) own conscience. (John Leland, 1791)

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.**

LEADER: Religion must be forever voluntary and uncoerced. It is not the prerogative of any power to compel people to conform to any religious creed or form of worship, or to worship, or to pay taxes for the support of a creed they do not believe. God wants free worshipers and no other kind. (George W. Truett, 1920).

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.**

LEADER: Baptists believe in free churches within a free state. We believe religious liberty to be an inalienable human right and indispensable to human welfare. Profoundly convinced that any deprivation of this right is a wrong to be challenged, we condemn every form of compulsion or restraint in religion. (The American Baptist Bill of Rights, 1939).

PEOPLE: **We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.**

**Once a people came together
bound by faith and vision new;
With the wonder of the gospel
came God’s gift of freedom true;
Freed to follow Christ in service,
freed to worship and to seek;
Conscience guided by God’s Spirit,
God their sole authority.**

**Having suffered persecution
they now fought for freedom’s cause
That our faith be freely chosen,
not defined by human laws.
We their children are entrusted
with the dream they dared to dream,
Each one free to seek God’s leading,
in our Lord our unity.**

**From our sin our Lord has freed us;
in our darkness light has shined.
In our pain his love brings healing,
words of hope for humankind.
Still, so many live in shadows,
hunger, hate, grief and despair;
Some forgotten, some unnoticed,
some untouched by hands of care.**

**In our freedom God commands us
that we share God’s gift of grace;
For the sake of God’s creation
we seek vision for this day.
Like our fathers and our mothers
may we always faithful be;
In our dying find our living,
bound to Christ, our Liberty.**

Words: Peggy Haymes, 2005

Music: Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

¹⁶Jesus said to the crowd “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’;
¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

"This Is My Song"

FINLANDIA



1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2. My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



A song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 And sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 Your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,



Here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 And skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 And hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions.



With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 A song of peace for their land and for mine.
 My - self I give you; let your will be done.

Words: Lloyd Stone, 1934; st 3: Georgia Harkness, 1964
 Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899

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

“Fugue in G Major (BWV 577)”
J.S. Bach

Stephen Schaeffer

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Elizabeth Riley. A 16-year member, Elizabeth serves on the Church Nominating and Community Ministries Committees and the Toy Joy team. She is also a member of the Wilderness Sunday School class and a 3s-K Mission Friends teacher.

We thank Stephen Schaeffer for serving as our organist this morning and LaCount Anderson for directing our congregational singing this morning.

The sanctuary flowers are placed by Paula Gupton Page in memory of her husband, Robert S. Page, and her parents, Bennie Ray and Mary Gupton. The flowers are in celebration of our country's birthday and in particular in honor of her father's service in World War II and her grandfather's service in World War I.

Sympathy to Hope Williams on the July 2 death of her husband, Tom Bersuder.

Please keep the 16 people going on the youth beach trip to Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores this week in your prayers. They leave tomorrow and return Friday.

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.



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 5–12

Sunday, July 5

- 9:30 Continental breakfast for combined Sunday School class (FH)
- 9:45 Special combined adult Sunday School class (fellowship hall)
Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)

Monday, July 6–Thursday, July 10

Youth beach trip (Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores)

Monday, July 6 *Independence Day holiday*

Church office and clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, July 7

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

Thursday, July 9

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, July 12

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 *Second Sunday Lunch*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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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.