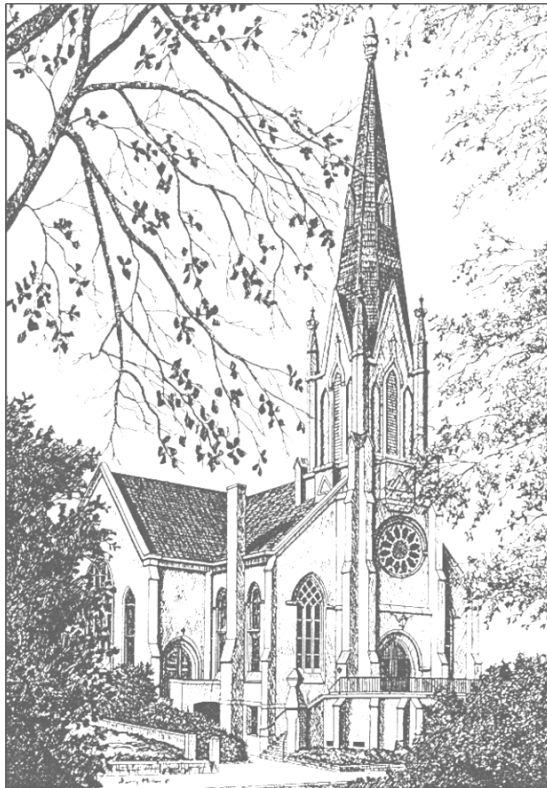


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 23, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year, a season to ponder the possibilities of growth on our journey. Today's texts point us in the direction of basic principles—the rock from which we were hewn in Isaiah, the calling to a transformed life in Romans, and our profession of faith in Matthew. We consider the latter text in greater detail, though the themes of all three texts are intertwined. We sing praises to the God who has helped us in the past and thus deserves our trust in the future. We pray for the world around us and then return to this world, trusting in Jesus' promise that the forces of evil and death cannot prevail against us.

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

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

Maureen Howell

James Biery

The Call to Praise (responsive)

LEADER: We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

PEOPLE: **We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!**

LEADER: Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.

PEOPLE: **Even when we are in deep trouble, God makes us live again.**

ALL: The love of God lasts forever!

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 78

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 51:1-6

Becky Mercer

¹Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Invitation to Prayer "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

BRIDEGROOM

Elizabeth Glontz, soloist

(Stanza 1, solo; stanza 2, choir; **stanza 3, all**)

Unison

1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal-lenge of her
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the Church in faith as - sem - bled, to her
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com-pare: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Words: Carl P. Daw, 1984
 Tune: Peter Cutts, 1969

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

"Summer Suns Are Glowing"

Sanctuary Choir

Paul Halley

Summer suns are glowing over land and sea,
Happy light is flowing bountiful and free.
Ev'rything rejoices in the mellow rays,
All earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

God's free mercy streameth over all the world,
And his banner gleameth, ev'rywhere unfurled.
Broad and deep and glorious as the heav'n above,
Shines in might victorious his eternal love.

Lord, upon our blindness thy pure radiance pour;
For thy loving kindness make us love thee more.
And when clouds are drifting dark across our sky,
Then, the veil uplifting, Father, be thou nigh.

We will never doubt thee, though thou veil thy light.
Life is dark without thee; death with thee is bright.
Light of Light! Shine o'er us on our pilgrim way,
Go thou still before us to the endless day.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 612 “How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Lessons from a Beloved yet Controversial Text”

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, 559

KINGSFOLD

“Make Room within My Heart, O God”

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

“Jubilee on FOUNDATION”

Maureen Howell

Alice Jordan

*The congregation may stand.

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We invite visitors to join us after the service for light snacks and fellowship at our visitors table found right outside the library on the second floor. Members: if you find yourself in conversation with a new guest, don’t hesitate to bring them so they can make a good connection here at FBC and learn more about the church!



The Deacon on Call is Becky Mercer. A 25-year member, Becky serves on the Children's Ministry Council, assists with the gradeschool children's choir, and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir and the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. She and her husband Jeff have two children: Will and Cady.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer today are Elizabeth and Catherine Yelverton.

Presented by John and Lou Anne Liverman, the pulpit parament today is in honor and in celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Stephenson, Lou Anne's parents, who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on August 31. A donation has been made to the Day Missions Fund in their honor.

Church conference: Wednesday, August 26; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and meeting at 6pm, in person and via Zoom (link and documents may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*).

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for August 26 is: Carnitas and chicken tacos with rice and beans; vegetarian option: tofu tempura; kids: cheese quesadillas.

The men at FBC are invited to make a joyful noise in a men's choir on Sunday, August 30. Come for a short rehearsal in the choir room at 10:30 before the service (pre-practice features coffee). No robes necessary. Contact Warren Howell (whowell@fbcraleigh.org) with questions.

Join us for our End-of-Summer Block Party & Fall Kickoff on Wednesday, September 2, from 5:30–7:30pm in the church parking lot for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details and links to RSVP and pay for the event, as well as a sign-up link for our annual cornhole tournament.

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with sound and YouTube livestreaming during Sunday worship. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers serve on a rotating schedule, so you won't be needed every Sunday. Interested? Contact Royce Willmschen (royce.willmschen@gmail.com).

Our August mission project focuses on the Shepherd's Table soup kitchen. We are collecting cleaning supplies for the Kitchen as well as story books, markers, crayons and small stuffed animals for the children who come. Please see the *Rose Window Weekly* for a specific list of items needed. Your donations may be placed in the marked drawer in the cabinet in the Lewis Lobby.

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.

Visiting? We'd love to get to know you. Scan the QR code to the right to share your contact information.



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.

Calendar Highlights • August 23–30

Sunday, August 23

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (302/Zoom)
- 3:00 And Also with 'Cue BBQ class (parking lot/fellowship hall)

Monday, August 24

- 10:00 Clothing ministry

Tuesday, August 25

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

Wednesday, August 26

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 7:00 Adult Choir rehearsal (310)

Thursday, August 27

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Sunday, August 30

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Joint FBC/JBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 5:00 Youth kick-off (301)
GA Taco and Qwirkle party (Wade home)

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.