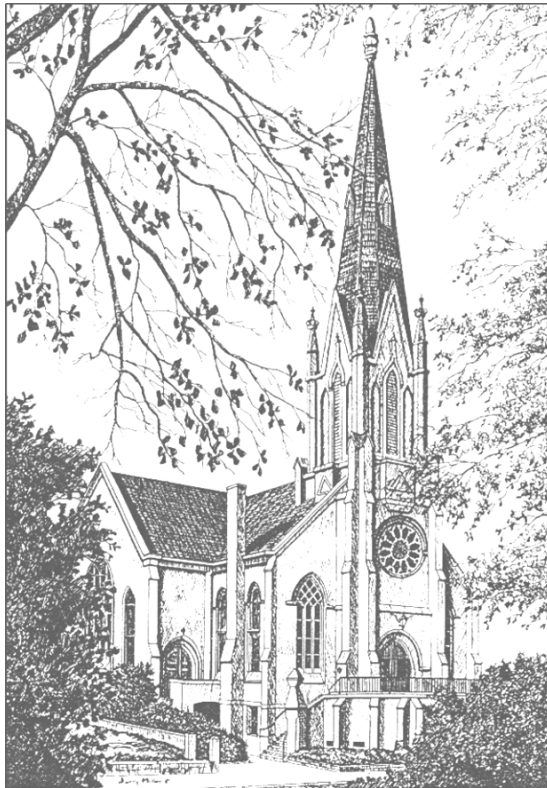


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 13, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today's texts present a multitude of rich themes — brokenness and reconciliation, providence and human agency, judgment and grace, sin and forgiveness. Not all of these can be explored in detail, but each is reflected somewhere in the music, liturgy, and prayers. The sermon considers the brief story from Genesis which touches on all the themes, considering how much this biblical family is like ours. We conclude worship with the celebration of communion, a sacred ritual that allows the church as a family to embrace God's gift of healing.

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

"Dance on LAUDA ANIMA"
Michael Burkhardt

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 103

LEADER: People of God, bless the Lord,

PEOPLE: **bless God's holy name.**

LEADER: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

PEOPLE: **so great is God's steadfast love for us.**

*The Hymn of Praise, 26 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

*The Invocation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 50:15–21

Will Poteat

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 14:1–12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain:

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical score is written for a soloist in 2/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the lyrics 'Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,'. The second system contains 'live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.' The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. There are triplets in the second system.

Soloist:

Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together **(Refrain)**

May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives . . .

Let us be one in love together in the one bread of Christ . . .

Words: Latin 8th cent.; English trans. Taizé Community, 1991
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979

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.**

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2. How can Your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3. In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;
 4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and bid re - sent - ment cease;

but You a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!
 then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 for the first system and a continuation for the second system. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1966

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

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Anthem

“Table of Plenty”

Daniel Schutte

Sanctuary Choir

Chad Reed, guitar

Beth McCollum, violin

Come to the feast of heaven and earth; come to the table of plenty!

God will provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty.

O come and sit at my table where saints and sinners are friends.

I wait to welcome the lost and lonely to share the cup of my love.

O come and eat without money; come to drink without price.

My feast of gladness will feed your spirit with faith and fullness of life.

My bread will ever sustain you through days of sorrow and woe.

My wine will flow like a sea of gladness to flood the depths of your soul.

Your fields will flower in fullness; your homes will flourish in peace.

For I, the giver of home and harvest, will send my rain on the soil.

Music and Words: Daniel Schutte, 1992

The Celebration of Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Bread Is Broken

The Cup Is Shared

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.



1. God made from one blood all the fam - 'lies of
 2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our
 3. We learn through our fam - 'lies how close - ness and
 4. Give, Lord, to each fam - 'ly in con - flict and
 5. Then wid - en that wis - dom and grace to in -



earth, The cir - cles of nur - ture that raised us from
 tears For all of the fam - 'lies we've known through the
 trust In - crease when our ac - tions are lov - ing and
 storm A sense of your wis - dom and grace that trans -
 clude The rac - es and view - points our fam - 'lies ex -



birth, Com - pan - ions who join us to walk through each
 years, The in - ti - mate net - works on which we de -
 just. Yet fam - 'lies have al - so dis - tort - ed their
 form Sharp an - ger to in - sight which strength - ens the
 clude Till peace in each home bears and nur - tures the



stage Of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
 pend Of par - ent and part - ner and room - mate and friend.
 roles, Mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruis - ing their souls.
 heart And makes clear the place where re - build - ing can start.
 bud Of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1986

Tune: FOUNDATION, *Funk's Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832

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

“Fanfare”

Maureen Howell

Nicolas Jacques Lemmens

*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 Will Poteat, a 30-year member of First Baptist. He and his wife, Karen, have three sons: Zachary, Jacob, and Isaac; and two daughters, Olivia and Camryn.

The pulpit parament is placed in honor of the ministers and church staff for their care, support, and work to support all who enter the church. Given by Jerry Washington and Sheila Jordan. A donation is made to the Day Missions Fund.

Keep the 12 people going on the children's retreat to Camp Kanata in your prayers. They leave Friday and return Sunday.

Today is our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event from 12–2:30pm in the fellowship hall. Immediately following worship, you're invited to come for a free pizza lunch, and then we'll get to work packaging 10,000 meals! There are jobs for all ages and abilities, so please join us.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 16; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. This week, our speaker is Hayden James, who will lead a discussion about Stephen Ministries. In person and via Zoom; see the *Rose Window Weekly* for link.

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 September 16 is: barbecue chicken with green beans, baked beans, and potato salad; vegetarian option: mock BBQ chicken; kids: macaroni and cheese.

For our September mission project, we are supporting Toy Joy. We will have the first of two donation collection days on Sunday, September 27, from 9:30am–12:30pm, in the fellowship hall. At that time, we will collect new and GENTLY USED toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, and books. Please make sure that all used items are clean and in very good condition, with ALL of their pieces and parts included. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for links to Amazon and Target wish lists. If you prefer for our Toy Joy team to do the shopping, you may also donate funds.

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 • September 13–20

Sunday, September 13

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Rise Against Hunger food-packing event (fellowship hall)
- 5:00 Youth group (choir room/301/Blue Room)

Monday, September 14

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, September 15

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (Blue Room)
- 7pm Music Made in Heaven board meeting (conference room)

Wednesday, September 16

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:00 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
Evening Bells rehearsal (302)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (choir room/sanctuary/301)

Thursday, September 17

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners meeting (fellowship hall)

Friday, September 18–Sunday, September 20

Children's retreat to Camp Kanata

Saturday, September 19

- 5:00 Middle School Night Out (Activate Raleigh, 601 E. Six Forks Rd)

Sunday, September 20

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth group (choir room/301/Blue Room)



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.