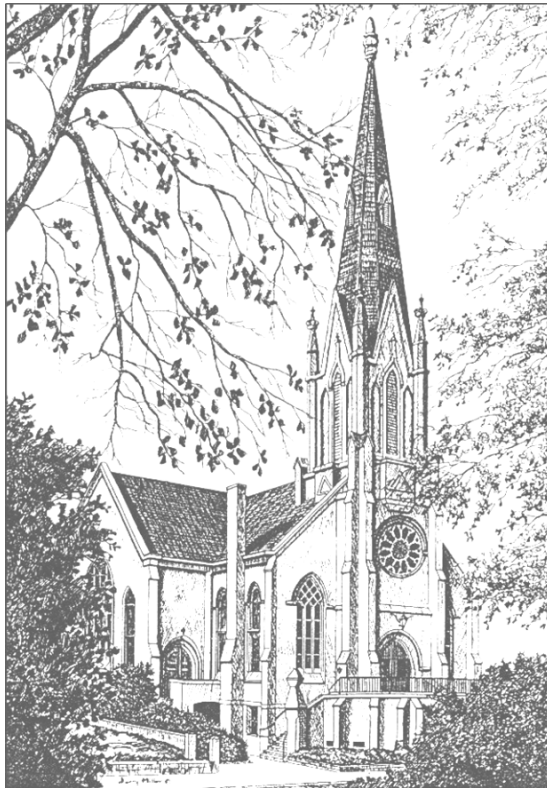


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 27, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: The texts for today explore the nature of authority, the identity of Christ, and what it means to follow him. We ponder these themes as we pray for deeper understanding and sing praises to the God whose nature is beyond our comprehension, but whose love has transformed us.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Susan Kimball

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

"Lord, I Want To Be a Christian"
Evelyn Larter

Maureen Howell

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Lord, open our lips,

PEOPLE: **and our mouth shall declare your praise.**

LEADER: Lord, open our eyes,

PEOPLE: **and our seeing shall behold your glory.**

LEADER: Lord, open our hearts,

PEOPLE: **and our feeling shall know your love.**

LEADER: Lord, open our minds,

PEOPLE: **and our thinking shall discover your wonders.**

LEADER: Lord, open our hands,

PEOPLE: **and our sharing shall show your generosity.**

LEADER: Lord, open our lives,

PEOPLE: **and our living shall declare your presence.**

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Bob Rhodes

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Call to Prayer

“O How I Love Jesus”

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like mu - sic in my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.
O, how I love Je - sus, O, how I love Je - sus,
O, how I love Je - sus, be - cause He first loved me!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a semibreve note, and the fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Words: Frederick Whitfield, 1859

Music: *O How I Love Jesus*, American melody

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 Hymn of Devotion, 107

“Christ Be My Leader”

SLANE

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

Allen Pote, arr.

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*“Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance,” said he.
“And I’ll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I will lead you all in the Dance,” said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn’t follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It’s hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I’d gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that’ll never, never die,
I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me;
“I am the Lord of the Dance,” said he.

Words: Sydney Carter, 1963

Music: Shaker Melody, Sydney Carter, adapt.

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, 563

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”

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

“Trumpet Tune”

Maureen Howell

Martin Ellis

*The congregation may stand.

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The Invocation is adapted from David Adam, *Tides and Seasons*, © 1989 SPCK.

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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 Bob Rhodes. A 43-year member and first-term deacon, Bob is a member of the Pathfinders Sunday School class. He and his wife Mary Powell have two grown children, JD and Sarah Catherine.

The sanctuary flowers are given today in loving memory of Richard Gene Puckett by Robbie and family.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the September 23 birth of Shiloh Douglas Hood, son of Michael and Sara and brother of Cal.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer are Colt and Remi Phillips.

Sympathy to Ruth Bailey on the September 20 death of her sister, Beth Bayless.

Church conference: Wednesday, September 30; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and Zoom 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 23 is: meatloaf with mashed potatoes, broccoli, and glazed carrots; vegetarian option: mock meatloaf; kids: meatballs.

For our September mission project, we are supporting Toy Joy. Today from 9:30am–12:30pm is the first of two donation collection days and we are collecting 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. The next collection day will be Sunday, October 18. 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 20–October 4

Sunday, September 27

- 9:00 Nominating Committee meeting (conference room/Zoom)
- 9:30 Toy Joy collection (fellowship hall)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth group (choir room/301/Blue Room)

Monday, September 28

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 5:00 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music (301/307/311)
- 6:15 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (choir room/sanctuary/301)

Thursday, October 1

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 11:30 Thirty-Niners meeting (fellowship hall)

Saturday, October 3

- 9:00 Downtown historical church walk (sanctuary)

Sunday, October 4

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/communion/deacon ballots (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 4:00 Ad hoc Childcare Team meeting (conference room)
- 5:00 Youth group (choir room/301/Blue Room)
Evening Bells rehearsal (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
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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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.