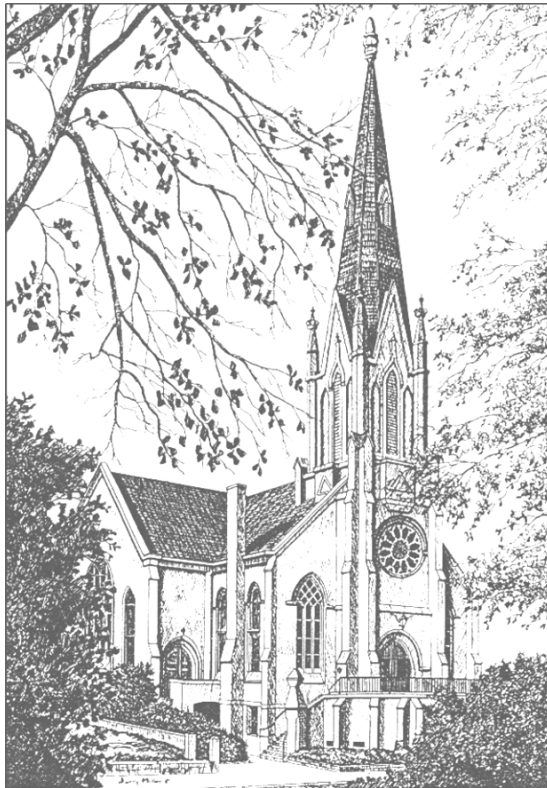


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



September 6, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship around three texts with a diverse mixture of content. There are glimpses of hope and assurance, talk of love and reconciliation, but there are also sharp words of correction that are difficult to hear. We seek to reflect all aspects of these readings with our worship, singing songs of praise to a God of love, offering prayers of thanksgiving for words of assurance, and then trying to hear the more difficult words we need to hear.

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

"The Humble Heart"
Wilbur Held

Maureen Howell

The Introit

"Love Is Little"
Kevin Siegfried, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Love is little, love is low, love will make my spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light, love will do the thing that's right.

Words and Tune: South Union Shaker Village, Kentucky, 1834

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Listen! The Lord calls out to us, offering life!

PEOPLE: **Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.**

LEADER: Walk in the paths of God's commandments with delight.

PEOPLE: **Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.**

With our whole heart, we will turn to you and live!

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Nancy Moore Phillips

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830

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

“Bow Down Low”

Sanctuary Choir

David Bridges, arr.

Bow down low and bend your head, for I’ve come to sweep this house clean.
Yes, I’ve come to wash and clean from this floor the stains of sin,
for lo, I’ve come again, and I’ve not come in vain.
Sweep high, sweep low, sweep clean as you go.

Music and Words: Traditional Shaker

The Gospel

Matthew 18:15–20

¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

*The Hymn of Devotion, 708 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Things We Don’t Want To Hear That We Need To Hear”

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, 720

ODE TO JOY

“Christ, Whose Purpose Is To Kindle”

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

“Postlude”

Maureen Howell

Allen Orton Gibbs

*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 Nancy Moore Phillips. A 67-year member, Nancy is the director of the WMU, program director for the Thirty-Niner senior group, and co-chair of the Funeral Committee, and is a member of the Denominational Relations committee, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Pathfinders Sunday School class. She is married to Bobby Phillips and has two stepsons and five step-grandchildren.

The pulpit parament for today's worship service is sponsored by Emily Johnson in loving memory of her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson, and her sister, Becky Wines. A donation is made to the Day Missions Fund.

Sympathy to Mary Jane Lewis and her family on the August 30 death of her mother, Peggy Hankins.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, September 9; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. This week, our speaker is Michael Schley, Wake Interfaith Immigration Network.

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 9 is: shrimp boil with corn on the cob, potatoes, coleslaw; vegetarian option: veggie boil; kids: fish sticks.

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.

Sunday, September 13, 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.

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 6–13

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7 *Labor Day holiday*

Church office and clothing ministry closed

Tuesday, September 8

- 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 9

- 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 10

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

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)



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. 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.