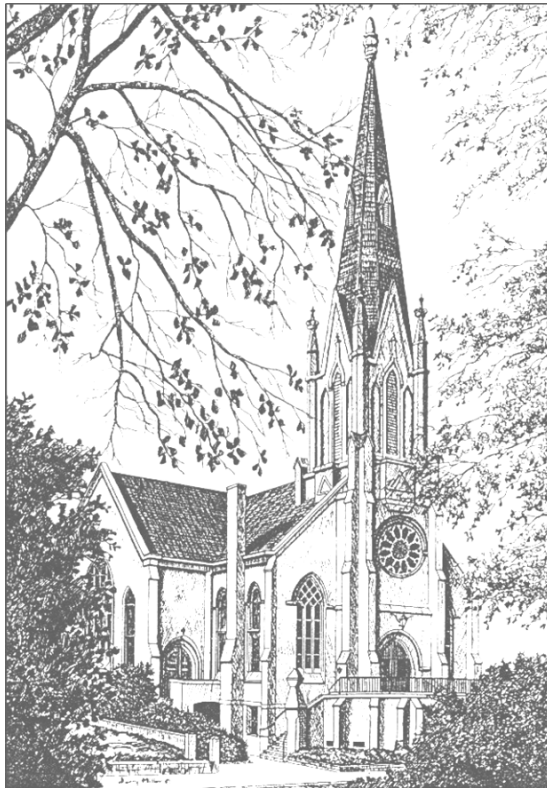


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



October 11, 2026

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2026

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, we consider yet another parable of Jesus filled with straightforward assurances and unexpected twists of plot. We embrace the theme of welcome with songs and prayers of thanksgiving, we ponder a word of challenge about how we clothe ourselves in God's realm, and we go forth to give witness to the inclusive yet demanding love of God we know in Christ.

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 Duet

"Pie Jesu"
John Rutter

Cady Mercer, flute
Amanda LaBrecque, oboe

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Rejoice in the Lord always!

PEOPLE: **All thanks and praise to God!**

LEADER: Do not worry about anything.

PEOPLE: **We trust in God who provides for us.**

LEADER: Let the peace of God settle among you.

PEOPLE: **We will share God's peace with all.**

The Invocation



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day. Gath-er us in and



lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haughty; gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so
 wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and
 hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and make us your own; gath-er us in, all



we shall a-wak-en; we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 meek and so low-ly; give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 peo-ples to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 25:1-9

Elizabeth Riley

¹O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 4:1-9

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture:

and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul:

and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness,

for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:

thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy

shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Words: Psalm 23
John Rutter, 1978

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 Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

**A king planned a party — a feast, rich and hearty.
He sent invitations to all of his guests.
So what could be better than getting a letter
And being invited and welcomed and blessed?
"My work needs attention," said one, "Not to mention,
My family is growing. There's so much to do."
"My farm," said another, "Is big, and — oh, brother —
I'm busy with hobbies I want to pursue."

"The wedding is ready! My guests are not worthy!"
The king told his servants when nobody came.
"So go search the alleys, the hills and the valleys,
And bring in the poor and the blind and the lame."
That day there was singing and halls that were ringing
With laughter and joy in that wonderful place.
For those who attended knew how they depended
Upon the king's generous mercy and grace.

O God, you invite us! You seek to delight us.
Your table is ready for those who say "Yes!"
Do we make excuses when you want to choose us
To sit at your table, forgiven and blessed?
And, Lord, as you welcome us into your kingdom,
May we reach to welcome the world by your grace.
You love the outsider. Now may we reach wider
To welcome the world with your loving embrace.**

Words and music: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2014

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"What Is the Dress Code in God's Realm?"

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.

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

“Gigue on ASH GROVE”
Christine Schulz

Maureen Howell

*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 Elizabeth Riley. A 16-year member, Elizabeth serves on the Church Nominating, Hospitality, 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.

The sanctuary flowers are provided today in memory of Howard Shell by his wife, Frances Shell, and family.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer this morning are Evie and Leah Filomena.

Please keep the people going on the middle school retreat to Camp Agape in Fuquay-Varina in your prayers. They leave Friday and return Sunday.

Deacon election continues through Sunday, October 25. You may submit your ballot in the offering plate at Sunday worship services, in the ballot box in the church office, or by mailing it to the church office. Address questions to any of the current deacons. Please prayerfully consider your choices for our deacon leadership.

A Stand for Dignity: People of Faith Raising Voices for Immigrants rally will be held today from 2–4pm, on the South Lawn of the State Capitol. If the weather is bad, the event will move to our sanctuary. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, October 14; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. We begin a two-week book study on *The End of Civility*. Together with author and theologian Dr. Ryan Newson, we'll explore what civility means from a Christian perspective and consider the challenging question of when civility contributes to the common good—and when calls for civility might actually stand in the way of justice.

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 October 14 is: chicken stir fry with rice and veggies; vegetarian option: veggie stir fry with rice; kids: pork egg rolls with rice and veggies.

The last drop-off/collection day is next Sunday, October 18, from 9:30am–1pm, in the fellowship hall. We are collecting new or 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, specifying *Toy Joy* in the memo line of your check.

The CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 25. You can support the Walk and the FBC teams by walking or donating. You may donate to the Walk via the website or the kiosk. Read more details in *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." You 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 • October 11–18

Sunday, October 11

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ballots (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:00 Sanctuary Choir lunch & Christmas music workshop
(301/302/310)
- 2:00 *Stand for Dignity* rally (south Capitol lawn)
- 5:00 Youth group (choir room/301/Blue Room)

Monday, October 12

- Clothing ministry closed
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, October 13

- 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, October 14

- 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, October 15

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 1:00 Thirty-Niners play outing (Raleigh Little Theatre)

Friday, October 16–Sunday, October 18

Middle school retreat (Camp Agape, Fuquay-Varina)

Sunday, October 11

- 9:30 Toy Joy collection day (fellowship hall)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/deacon ballots (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 1:30 Gaddy Concert ad hoc committee meeting (conference room)
- 5:00 Youth group (choir room/301/Blue Room)

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.