

WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 18, 2016

Chiming of the Hour

Preparation for Worship

Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy—the experiences that makes us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light. ~Brené Brown

Prelude

Intermezzo in A major Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
– Opus. 118, No. 2 (excerpt)

Choral Call to Worship

Burlington Boys Choir
Dominus Illuminatis Mea (The Lord Is My Light and Salvation) Robert Revicki

* **Call to Worship**

Lia Scholl

You call us, Lord, to share your story.

We are called to follow where you lead.

We are called to live as you live, to love as you love.

We are called to preach the good news of God’s Kingdom of justice and joy, of peace and hope.

* **Hymn of Praise No. 2**

Joyful, Joyful ODE TO JOY
***Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.***

***All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.***

***Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou the Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.***

***Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
love divine is reigning o’er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.***

* **Invocation**

John Kernodle

Welcome and Passing of the Peace of Christ

Gathering Music

MAKE US ONE

***Make us one, Lord, make us one,
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know,
we are one in you.***

First Lesson from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 15:1-6, 16:1-6, NRSV

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, “You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!” But Abram said to Sarai, “Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

* **Hymn of Offering No. 526**

The Gift of Love GIFT OF LOVE

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Burlington Boys Choir
O God Creator Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)
O God creator, O how excellent is your name in all the earth.

* **Offertory Response**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Come LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God from whom all blessings come;
Praise God, in Christ, the risen one:
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

The children may exit to the Children’s Room (107B) for playtime.

* **Offertory Prayer**

Second Lesson from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 21:9-20, NRSV

But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Prayers of the People

* **Lesson from the Gospels**

Luke 3:8, NRSV

Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor;’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Burlington Boys Choir
Ex Ore Innocentium (Out of the Mouth of the Innocents) John Ireland

*It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be,
that God’s own Son should come from heav’n, and die to save a child like me.
And yet I know that it is true: he chose a poor and humble lot, and wept, and toiled,
and mourned, and died, for love of those who loved him not.
I sometimes think about the cross, and shut my eyes, and try to see
the cruel nail and crown of thorns, and Jesus crucified for me.
But even could I see him die, I should but see a little part of that great love,
which, like a fire, is always burning in his heart. And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart, and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.*

Bishop W.W. How

Sermon

What Are You Not Telling Yourself? Lia Scholl

Reflecting on the Sermon

Following the sermon, we will have a few moments of silent reflection. If you feel the movement of the Spirit to share your thoughts, please make your way to the microphone.

* Hymn of Commitment No. 66

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

We invite you to commit your life to Christ as a disciple and to join our church as a member. We receive members by transfer of church membership, confession of faith in Jesus followed by believer's baptism, or by statement of previous Christian experience. You may also wish to reaffirm your faith in Christ or make other commitments. You are welcome to come forward at this time.

Announcements and Welcoming New Members

Choral Benediction

Come Follow Me Forever

Burlington Boys Choir
Johan Michael Haydn (1737-1806)
arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen

* Benediction

Postlude

Sinfonia from the Oratorio *Solomon*

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

**Please stand as you are able.*

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Sexton *Steve Andrews*
Worship Leader *John Kernodle*
Reception *Marianne McIver*
Ushers *Eve and Steve Andrews, Lydia Cavanaugh, Erica Jernigan*
Sound System *Glenn Aldridge, Steve Andrews, Bob Ellison*
Guest Choir *Burlington Boys Choir, Dr. William Allred, Director*

STAFF

Minister of Campus Engagement *Elizabeth Corney*
Choir Director/Organist *Woodson Faulkner*
Member Care Specialist *Don Roberson*
Pastor *Lia Scholl*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Faith Community

Ed Adams and David Marshall
Jim and Mabel Brandon
Penny Ender
Margaret Johnston

Our Loved Ones

Doris Adams, Betty Ellison's friend
Beverly Aldridge, Glenn's relative
Carolyn Christman, Jean's daughter
R.W. Goins, Teresa's father
Carol Goyne, Betty Ellison's brother
Joyce Hash, Kathi Diana's friend
Robert Mercurio, Kathi Diana's brother
Wendell Swain, Martha Wood's cousin
Della Terrell, Martha Wood's aunt
Donna Warden, sister of Eve Andrews

WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday Schedule

10:00 Sunday School Classes, 206 and 202
Godly Play, Children's Room 107B
11:00 Worship, Wait Chapel
12:00 Reception, Narthex
12:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Wait Chapel

Sunday, September 18

11:00 Worship with the Burlington Boys Choir

Wednesday, September 21

10:00 Community Office Hours, Starbucks, North Dining Hall
5:30 Wednesday Night Supper, Lower Auditorium

Thursday, September 22

5:00 Community Happy Office Hours at the Beer Growler,
3424 Robinhood Rd

Friday, September 23

7:30 Men's Breakfast, Billy Bob's Silver Diner,
1650 Hanes Mall Blvd.

Sunday, September 25

11:00 Worship

Tuesday, September 27

7:00 Shifting the Paradigm, Wait Chapel

COMMUNITY NEWS

This morning in worship we welcome the Burlington Boys Choir. Directed by Bill Allred, the choir has performed in over 300 churches and cathedrals in the United States and Canada and on four different continents.

Shifting the Paradigm: The Roll of Faith Communities in Improving the Lives of LGBTQ Individuals and Families Join us Tuesday, September 27 in Wait Chapel as we find ways to combat the stigma and oppression that our LGBTQ neighbors still face, whether through HB2 or other legislation. Pastor Lia, Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn, and Robert Hoffman, LPCA will join an LGBTQ panel in highlighting the ways faith communities can welcome, affirm, and celebrate LGBTQ folks. If you're willing to host, please contact Lia.

Sign Ups for PRIDE and the CROP Walk are in the Narthex. Join us in these fun activities that raise awareness for LGBTQ rights and inclusion and local and global hunger, respectively, on the weekend of October 15 and 16.

College Students and Young Adults: Please join us for pancakes and conversation downstairs in the Lower Auditorium on the first Sunday of every month.

Hearing Devices and Large Print Hymnals are available. Talk with an usher if you need assistance. **Audio recordings** of the Worship Service are available on the church website. **Music and Lyrics** are reprinted with permission of OneLicense # A-719218.

Wake Forest Baptist Church is a progressive, welcoming and affirming Christian community committed to Jesus Christ. We value prophetic worship, thoughtful religious education, social justice, and peacemaking.



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