

Earle Street Baptist Church

11:00 am Worship

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

CHIMES

WELCOME

Janice Hinnant

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This
Earle Street Ringers

arr. Lloyd Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bettie Fabian

Leader: We believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, who comes to free the captives, heal the sick, and proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

All: We believe in a creating God who calls us to costly love.

Leader: We believe in a caring Christ whose example encourages us to risk ourselves for the sake of the gospel.

All: We believe in a healing Holy Spirit whose power enables us to share one another's burdens.

Leader: We believe in a caring community called the church, which is the physical presence of Christ in the world.

All: We believe in a redeeming gospel that brings wholeness and healing to each child of God.

Leader: We believe in committing our lives to freedom and justice and healing, sharing our belief that the God who created us calls us still.

All: We believe in participating in Christ's mission to live out the gospel in all the world. Amen.

INVOCATION

*HYMN OF PRAISE #477 *We Are Called to Be God's People* AUSTRIAN HYMN

(All children, grade 5 and under, may come forward on the final stanza.)

We are called to be God's people, showing by our lives His grace,

One in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.

Let us show how He has changed us and remade us as His own;

Let us share our life together as we shall around His throne.

We are called to be God's servants, working in the world today;

Taking His own task upon us, all His sacred words obey.

Let us rise, then, to His summons, dedicate to Him our all,

That we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now His call.

We are called to be God's prophets, speaking for the truth and right,

Standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil into light.

Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,

That we all may know the blessing of the doing of God's will.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Moore

(Following this, preschoolers, ages 3 – K5, may go to Sunday School.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gary Strickland

O God, you are like a parent who cares for the welfare of the family. We often behave like thoughtless, selfish children. We want the best of everything for ourselves, without considering our brothers and sisters. We are reluctant to invest our time and energy for the benefit of others. Forgive us, O God, and let the family become more important to us. Help us be like Christ, who gave up everything for the sake of the kingdom. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*OFFERTORY HYMN #249

AZMON

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

**The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.**

**True faith will open up the door and step into the street.
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.**

**True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.**

**If what we have, we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,
Then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Stuart Moore

OFFERTORY

The Old Rugged Cross

arr. Lamar McCarrell

Lamar McCarrell, Wren Smith, Melanie Wells; clarinets

*RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

ANTHEM

My Savior's Love

by Lloyd Larson

Sanctuary Choir

I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, the Nazarene.
I wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned, unclean.
For me it was in the garden He prayed: "Not my will, but Thine."
He had no tears for His own griefs, but sweat drops of blood for mine.
How marvelous, how wonderful! And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous, how wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me!

He took my sins and sorrows, He made them His very own.
He bore the burden to Calvary, He suffered and died alone.
How marvelous, how wonderful! And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous, how wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me, His love for me!
How marvelous, how wonderful! And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous, how wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me, my Savior's love for me.

MESSAGE

"The Church Jesus Needs"

Bill Wilson

Mark 9:33-35

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and a servant of all.”

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT #649

IN BABILONE

Christ, You Call Us All to Service

**Christ, You call us all to service, call us all who follow You;
Plant in us a deep commitment all Your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for Your justice, in us kindle love of peace;
Help us heal the broken-hearted, to the captive bring release.**

**Teach us how to work together, brothers, sisters, side by side;
Equal partners in the struggle, in the cause of truth allied.
To each one some gift is given, man or woman, young or old;
Help us use each skill and talent Your great purpose to unfold.**

**Let us be a servant people, reconciling, ending strife;
Seeking ways more just of sharing and of ordering human life.
Fill us with a glowing vision of this world as it should be;
Send us forth to change that vision into blest reality.**

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Gary Strickland

PASTOR SEARCH REPORT

Meredith Smith

*BENEDICTION

Gary Strickland

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #705

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.**

*POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude

by Paul Fey

*Congregation please stand, if able.

Hearing devices are available upon request. Please see one of the ushers if you would like to use one. Our worship services are live streamed via the ESBC YouTube channel. The services are also archived for future viewing on YouTube.

For an explanation of the meaning of the colors and symbols used for worship in our sanctuary, please refer to the worship guide located on the front page of the hymnal.

Guest Preacher

Dr. William “Bill” Wilson founded The Center for Healthy Churches in January of 2014. This followed his service as President of the Center for Congregational Health at Wake Forest Baptist Health since 2009. Previously he was Pastor of First Baptist Church of Dalton, Georgia, where he served since 2003. He brings over 33 years of local church ministry experience to the Center, having served as pastor in two churches in Virginia (Farmville BC and FBC Waynesboro) and on a church staff in South Carolina. Bill has led each of the churches he has served into a time of significant growth and expansion of ministry. He is a certified coach and

facilitator and has experience as a consultant in numerous settings and with a wide range of organizations, faith communities, and churches.

Dr. Wilson grew up in Greensboro NC and Brentwood TN, where his father pastored local congregations. He graduated from Murray State University, and went on to receive his Master of Divinity at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry at the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana.

Bill is a popular speaker and writer, and he brings to his role as the leader of the work of the Center a deep passion for the local church, as well as a commitment to the health and success of both clergy and congregations. He and Dr. Bob Dale have written a book together: *Weaving Strong Leaders: How Leaders Grow Down, Grow Up and Grow Together*. (2016)

He is married to Kathy and they have three children and ten grandchildren.

Acolyte—Reece Wells

Deacon of the Week—Stuart Moore

Greeters—Margaret Kirby/Norma Green

Sound Technician—Jay Gibson

Video Technician—Grant Wooten

Ushers—Mary Arrowood, Glenn Arrowood, Dru Hester, Denise Plumblee, Roger Massengale, Quay Farmer