

PRELUDE *Let It Be Said of Us* Steve Fry

***CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP** *The Potter's Hand* Darlene Zschech

*Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure all of my days are
Held in Your hand; crafted into Your perfect plan.*

*You gently call me into Your presence guiding me by Your Holy Spirit.
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through Your eyes.*

*I'm captured by Your holy calling; set me apart, I know You're drawing
me to Yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray.*

*Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.*

***INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER** Liz Peacock, Deacon

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Liz Peacock

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES Kerry Johnson

Thank you for choosing to worship with us at The Ridge today! If you are visiting, please fill out one of the green cards on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate at the end of the service. We're so glad to have you here, and we're grateful to know of your presence with us.

RESPONSIVE READING *Adapted from Psalm 90 & 91* Kerry Johnson

LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**We see your handiwork in the creation of our world.
You toil to put our world in motion.**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

You strive to protect and ensure us. Your work restores and keeps us.

Surely God will save us from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

**The LORD will cover us with soft feathers, and under God's wings we will find refuge;
and God's faithfulness will be our shield and rampart.**

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, Your splendor to their children.

**May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *It Is Well with My Soul* arr. Anna Laura Page
Ridge Road Ringers, directed by Janet Carter

MORNING PRAYER Karen Eickhoff

***HYMN 385** *They'll Know We Are Christians* ST. BRENDAN'S

SCRIPTURE READING *1 Chronicles 28:20-21; Romans 16:1-9* Liz Peacock

LEADER: These are the scriptures of God for the people of Christ.

PEOPLE: May the Spirit grant us understanding.

ANTHEM *The Longer I Serve Him* Bill Gaither

SERMON *Work Matters* Karen Eickhoff

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT 384** *The Servant Song* BEACH SPRING

During this hymn, we invite you to reflect upon your relationship with God and your commitment to Christian service. If you would like to make a commitment to Christ or to become a member of Ridge Road Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to speak with a pastor.

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION** Karen Eickhoff

As we go out into the world, we look for opportunities to share our blessings with others. If you would like to contribute to the ministry here at Ridge Road Baptist Church, offering plates are available on the altar up front for your gifts.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *As We Go* Jeremy Johnson

*As we go, may Your Spirit go before us. As we go, may we follow where You lead.
May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,
And be a light unto the world as we go.*

POSTLUDE *Serve the Lord with Gladness* B.B. McKinney

**please stand as you are able*

We welcome Rev. Karen Eickhoff to our pulpit today. She is the Associate Pastor of Education and Discipleship at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh. She has served Trinity for 30 years. Karen taught Special Education in Knoxville, TN before attending and graduating from Southeastern Seminary in 1987. Karen has been a minister at Spring Hope Baptist in Spring Hope, NC and First Baptist Church, Ponca City, OK. She has served as Minister of Childhood Education and Adult Education. Karen and her husband Bruce live in Raleigh.

THREE SONGS ABOUT HOPE — Sunday, September 10 at 11:00 am

UKRANIAN CULTURAL CENTER LAUNCH PARTY — Sunday, September 10th from 4:00-7:00. Come join in the fun and learn about the activities happening on our campus serving the Ukrainians in the Triangle.

FALL SENIOR ADULT RALLY — Tuesday, September 19th (10:00 am) at Central Baptist Church, Wendell. \$15 registration due by Sunday, September 10th. You may register by calling the church office or by submitting your registration fee.

Foushee Update

We are glad to share that our family is back safe and sound in Kanazawa after spending the summer in America. The time away from our daily work here allowed for wonderful visits with partner congregations, quality time with family and friends, and needed rest. Your prayers sustained us throughout these travels and lifted up those who carried on the work in Japan. For this we are grateful.

Our goal is to visit partner congregations in America every two to three years. We seek to offer gratitude for prayers and financial gifts and also share about how God is at work in Japan. Though social media helps to ease the divide, this gap in our physical presence leaves us with snapshots in our minds of people and places from our most recent meetings. Yet, as we all know, life moves on and, for us, the memories we hold are not the realities we witness upon our return.

On the bright side of things, there is the excitement of newness when we return. Family introduce us to babies, friends share about developments in their careers and family lives, foodies take us out to try the next culinary delight, and congregations enthusiastically tell us about ways they are **engaging their communities in discipleship and mission service.**

However, there are also struggles and losses that occur in our time away. Aging loved ones leave us with questions about our roles in supporting them from afar in the years ahead, health issues restrict the abilities of people who have poured their lives into us and the work they have been called to, and there are more empty pews in many churches than the last time we visited.

When we step into these snapshots, reality looks different than the picture we hold in our memories. However, after the challenges of gathering during the pandemic, we give thanks that we get to experience these moments at all. A proverb associated with Japanese tea ceremony is "ichigo ichie" meaning "one time, one meeting" or "for this time only". It calls us to live with intention and treasure each moment because the current moment can never be replicated in exactly the same way. These moments that we get with loved ones will never look the same. They are once in a lifetime.

It is our prayer that we all live with anticipation of the holy encounters that the Lord provides as we walk together as fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members:

Betty Duke	Patricia Lynn
Bob & Jane Edwards	Linda Pleasants
Joe Ellen	Helen Prevette
Martha Flynn	Vic Rackley

Family and Friends:

Linda Creech (mother of Paige Kay)
Joel & Allison Cresimore
Linda DeSchreiver (niece of Jane Edwards)
Virginia Herran (sister of Jo Cresimore)
John & Jennifer LeMay (daughter and son-in-law of Jo Cresimore)
Ashley Lynn (niece of Patricia Lynn)
Marygena Lynn (sister-in-law of Patricia Lynn)
Martha Marcom (cousin of Patricia Lynn)
Tommy Jenkins (former member)
Jimmy Collier (friend of Ray Craver)

DEACON OF THE DAY

Today.....Liz Peacock
Next Week (Sept. 10).....Linda Broughman

GIVING

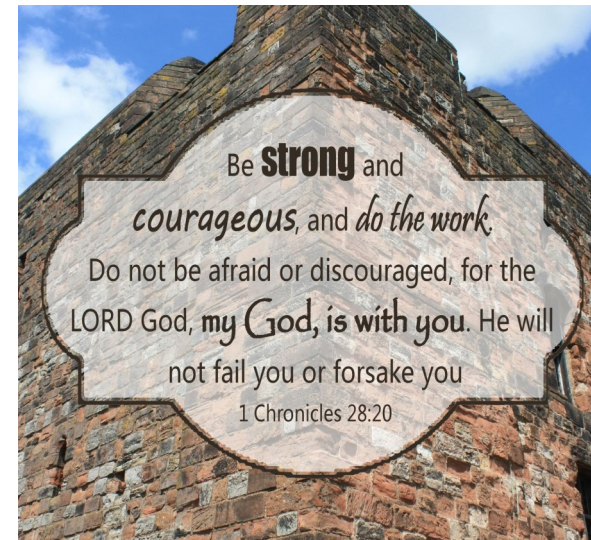
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To receive our weekly digital newsletter, please email lmccoy@rbch.com. It's the quickest and easiest way for us to let you know about all of different things going on here at the Ridge.



SUNDAY, September 3, 2023



Pastor
Dr. Trey Davis
tdavis@rrbch.com

Minister of Music
Kerry Johnson
kjohnson@rrbch.com

Office Administrator
Lois McCoy
lmccoy@rrbch.com

2011 Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Church 919.787.4423
Dial-A-Prayer 919.787.8823

www.rrbch.com

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Services are available on YouTube