



# *Our Worship of God*

*December 25, 2022*

*11:15 am*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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## *~ Christmas Day ~*

**Welcome**

Pastor Carol McEntyre

### **†Prayer of Invocation (responsive)**

Spirit of Love,

**We welcome you.**

We celebrate your coming to abide with us.

And we remember the ways you have been faithfully companioning us since the beginning.

**It was you who wove all life together.**

Your glory is painted across all of creation.

Throughout history, over and over again, you have taken on flesh,

**in the ordinary and the extraordinary,**

in the vulnerability of infants,

**the fierce proclamations of prophets,**

the enduring hope of those who persevere under evil's threats.

**You abide across the ages.**

Bless our time together, as we remember again the still-unfolding story of your love:

**A love that comes to dwell among us.**

A love that surprises and disrupts.

**A love that reveals the way of liberation.**

May it be so among us.

**Special Music**

**The Birthday of a King**

arr. Neidlinger

Jonathan Ray, *soloist*

## ~ Hope ~

### **Poem for Reflection:**

*i don't pay attention to the  
world ending.  
it has ended for me  
many times  
and began again in the morning.*

*- Nayyirah Waheed*

### **Lighting the Candle of Hope**

The hope of God is honest. It names forthrightly the struggles of our shared lives – the evils and suffering that make hope both difficult and necessary. It reaches to us in the places bare, vulnerable, tender, and tired. And hope says hang on. Keep on. Press on with purpose. What feels impossible can become possible with God. As we light this candle, we reflect on all the small ways hope has taken on flesh around us this year.

*In the silence, reflect on where you have experienced hope.*

## Scripture Reading

### **Luke 4:16-21**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them,

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

**†Song of Hope**

O Come O Come Emmanuel

~ Peace ~

**Image for Reflection: *Visible* by Scott Erickson**

Take a moment to gaze at this image. Notice where your attention goes.  
How does this image remind you of peace?



## Lighting the Candle of Peace

Peace is the gift of God that follows practicing care for each other and living with moral integrity. Prophets bear testimony to the barriers to peace among us. They chant faithfully in response to histories and present realities of racist violence, “no justice, no peace!” They echo the scriptures calling for justice and peace to rise and kiss. As we light this candle, we take a moment to reflect on an injustice that keeps people and communities from resting into the peace of God and calls us to deepen our engagement in the coming year.

*Pause to reflect on how you can participate in peace.*

## Scripture Reading

### **Isaiah 11:6-9**

The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

†Hymn of Peace 135 (verse 1)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

†Passing the Peace of Christ

## ~ Joy ~

### Poem for Reflection

*If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.*

– Mary Oliver

### Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Joy does not keep us from grief or hide the world's pain away. It brings its own offerings of delight, beauty, laughter, and sits them beside sorrows. Joy is the eternal abundance of small miracles that tether us to God's aliveness even when death surrounds. As we light this candle of joy, we reflect on the sources of plenty in our lives – the feasts of holy abundance that sustain our spirits.

*Reflect on how you have experienced joy.*

## Scripture Reading

### **Luke 1:39-45**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

†**Song of Joy**

Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)

*~ Love ~*

## Quote for Reflection

"What we see in Jesus is a spirituality that is grounded in the never-ending spring of love that was the source of everything he did. It was the source that enabled him to forgive the haters. It was the source that emboldened him to meet others in their pain. It was the source that ignited him to speak hope in a culture desperate for a new way."

– Scott Erickson, *Honest Advent*



## Lighting the Candle of Love

The greatest commandment – the one through which everything else must be interpreted: Love invites us, challenges us, changes us. Love is intimate and love is collective – it seeks a world of flourishing, within and without, for all life. As we light this candle, we reflect on the barriers that keep us from living out our full capacity to love and celebrate the freedom God has given us to break down those barriers together.

*Reflect on the ways you can participate in God's inclusive love.*

## Scripture Reading

### **Luke 1:46-55**

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

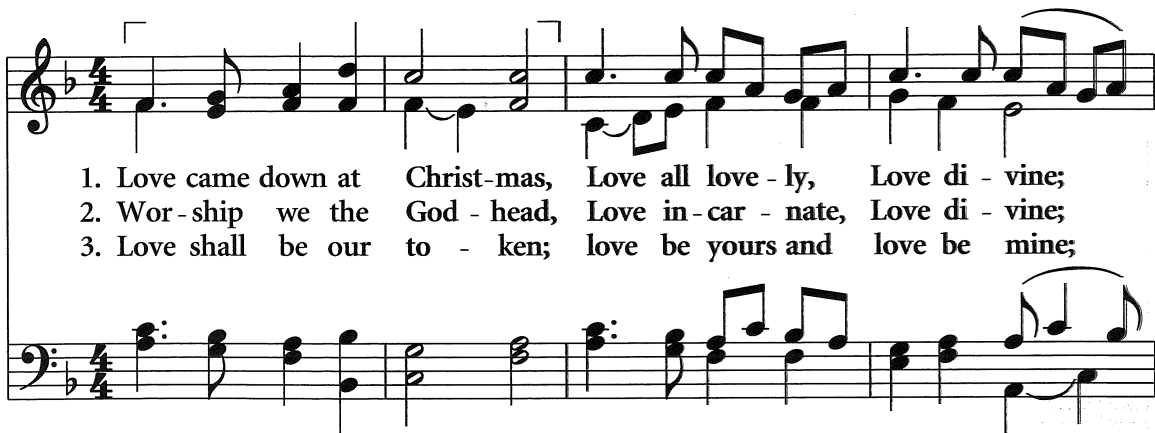
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# †Hymn of Love

# Love Came Down at Christmas



1. Love came down at Christ-mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;  
2. Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;  
3. Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;



Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gel gave the sign.  
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?  
love to God and oth - ers, love for plea and gift and sign.

~ *God-with-Us* ~

**Image for Reflection:** *Starbaby* by Scott Erickson

Reflect on this image. What is the first thing you notice?  
How does this image remind you of God's presence with us?



## **Lighting the Christ Candle**

The incarnation of God comes to us in the most surprising of ways and places. Unsettling the expectations of the powerful and breaking wide open the hopes of the weary, salvation is born among us. As we light the Christ candle, we reflect on our presumptions about God, the world, ourselves and each other, and open to the mysterious and scandalous way of Love enfleshed.

*Reflect on the ways you have experienced Love enfleshed.*

## **Scripture Reading**

### **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise be to Christ.**

## †Hymn 151

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

## Life of the Church

### †Benediction

Believe:

**for light is now in the world**

Believe:

**for God has become one of us**

Believe:

**for Love is born in each of us**

Believe:

**for the manger is full**

Go and believe

it is as the prophets said

and the blessing of Christmas

of family

of friends

and of God

be with you today

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
and Amen!**

### †Postlude

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# Worship Notes

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*Liturgy from Lessons, Carols and Poems* adapted from enfleshed.com

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830; arr Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

*Love Came Down at Christmas*, ©1927 from the *Revised Church Hymnary 1927*. Words: Christina Rossetti, 1885, alt. Music: Trad. Irish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927, alt.

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*, ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. Words: John W. Work, 1907. Music: Afro-American Spiritual; arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1989.

*Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful)* CCLI Song # 7128618 Edward Hodges | George Frideric Handel | Henry Van Dyke | Isaac Watts | Ludwig van Beethoven | Phil Wickham

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*, CCLI Song # 31982 John Mason Neale | Thomas Helmore

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# Poinsettia Honors & Memorials

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**Pam Humphreys** in memory of my parents Edna & John Humphreys.

**Gil & Donna Ross** in honor of our children.

**Sherry & Randy Wyatt** in honor of Chandler Wyatt and in memory of Sterling Wyatt.

**Becki Forsee** in honor of Joe & Oleta Forsee.

**Kee & Diana Groshong** in memory of Kee H. & Susan E. Groshong, Floyd & Helen Reese, Geraldine Reese Martin, Ellen Martin Mottaz, and Mrs. Dorothy Holliday. In honor of Reese, Susan, Natasha, and Thomas Groshong, Lisa Groshong and Trevor Harris.

**Paula & Mark Thomas** in honor of our parents.

**Ken & Sue Hammann** in memory of Louis & Margaret Hammann and Paul & Leona Zorich.

**Jim & Judy Elliott**

**Gary & Colleen Ostercamp** in honor of Neil, Whitney, Quinn, and Noah.

**Michael & Cheryl Brewer** in memory of Gary Dooley and Twyla Brewer. In honor of our children & lovely grandchildren.

**Sandy & John Hall** in memory of Robert Hall and Betty & Roy Cookson.

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# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, December 25

11:15 am Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

## Monday, December 26

OFFICES CLOSED

## Thursday, December 29

10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study

## Friday, December 30

OFFICES CLOSED

## Sunday, January 1

10:15 am Brunch Worship in the Fellowship Hall

## Monday, January 2

OFFICES CLOSED



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# Announcements

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## Visitors

If you are visiting, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, you can fill out a connection card at the welcome table, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at [fbc-columbia.org/connect](http://fbc-columbia.org/connect)



## 199 Reasons to Give

Our theme for this year's annual pledge drive is *199 Reasons to Give*, which anticipates First Baptist's upcoming 200th anniversary. Your pledge ensures that our unique progressive Christian voice will continue. It is not too late to turn in your pledge card! Use the QR code to submit a pledge card online.



## New Year's Day Worship

We will celebrate New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, with Brunch Worship at 10:15 am and gather in the Fellowship Hall around tables to worship God through song, food, and conversation. You can contribute to worship by bringing a yummy potluck dish to share. Brunch Worship will be in-person only, and takes the place of all other worship offerings for the day.

## Annual Business Meeting

### Sunday, January 22 - 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us Sunday, January 22 at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Business Meeting. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and elect our leadership for 2023. Then, we will hear a report from the finance committee and vote on the 2023 budget.

## Winter Sermon Series:

### *Un-Muddying the Water: On Being Baptist*

Many First Baptist folx feel kind of embarrassed to wear the label “Baptist” due to the actions of our siblings in Christ, the Southern Baptist. Yet, for good or ill, the stream in which our church swims is Baptist. Our congregation was founded in 1823, and although we were not initially Baptist, the word “baptist” is mentioned as early as 1824 in our records. That is our tradition.

Therefore, as we move toward our 200th year, we are thinking about what is good and worthy about our faith tradition and what we do want to hold onto as we move forward into the future. Join us beginning Sunday, January 8, as we kick off a winter sermon series: *Un-Muddying the Water: On Being Baptist*.

## Sharing Our Stories

The central story of the Church is God as revealed in Jesus Christ. This story is what gathers us together each week, and it is the story that inspired people nearly 200 years ago to found our church. Each of us brings a unique set of life experiences, faith traditions, and encounters with the Spirit that shapes our stories and spiritual journey. So, throughout 2023, Pastor Carol plans to host in-depth conversations with different First Baptist folx about their faith. Stephen Hoell has graciously agreed to go first!

Join us on Sunday, January 15, at 10:15 am in the Parlor as Stephen Hoell and Pastor Carol have a 40-minute conversation about his spiritual journey! Carol has curated a list of about 20 questions to guide the conversation. Questions like: when was the last time you felt like you were standing on holy ground? Why do you stay Christian? What is a well-known passage or teaching from the Bible that you no longer believe or at least struggle to believe? Of course, conversation partners can always choose to skip questions they feel uncomfortable answering.





**First Baptist Church**  
columbia, mo

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Church Staff

*Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor*

*Michael McEntyre, Pastor of Youth, Missions, and Administration*

*Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation*

*Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director, Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist*

*Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional Worship*

*Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant*

*Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator, Michael Ide, Custodian*