



Our Worship of God

December 18, 2022

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Welcome

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful
12-Bell Ensemble

arr. Jason Krug

†Call to Worship (responsive)

The same spirit that hovered over the deep in the beginning

The same spirit whose breath filled lungs

The same spirit that counseled prophets

The same spirit who descended like a dove on Jesus

The same spirit who ignited hearts like fire on Pentecost

The same spirit is moving in our midst

Beloveds of God – stop – listen to your own breathing.

Feel the rhythm of God’s love. That same Spirit is here with us,
as close as our breath.

†Opening Hymn 174

Angels from the Realms of Glory

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture Reading

David Jacobs

Luke 1:39-49

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.”

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;

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Mike & Cindy Giovanini

O God, as we light the fourth Advent candle, we seek your warmth and light.

We want an honest Advent.

Because of the incarnation, we know our bodies matter to you.

We feel your breath in our lungs

You do not forsake the human for the holy.

We belong in your sacred story.

We crave an embodied faith.

One that is real.

The fourth candle is lit.

God of love and presence

Illuminate our lives.

Breath Prayer

Take a moment to get comfortable in your seat. Then take a few deep breaths. Choose one of the following prayers as you breathe.

In: My soul magnifies the Lord
Out: and my spirit rejoices in God

In: Immanuel
Out: God-with-Us

Anthem

Above the Hills the Advent Light
Chancel Choir

by Wihla Hutson

Reflecting on the Advent Image

Spend some time looking at the image on the front of your bulletin and reflect on one or all of these questions.

What symbols stand out to you? What part of the image are you drawn to?
How do you think this image relates to the Christmas story?

Sharing of Our Gifts

†Hymn 167

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Message

Pastor Carol McEntyre

†Hymn of Response 179

God's Love Made Visible

Life of the Church

†Benediction

We need an honest Advent

Not one of pomp, but one of grit.

A meaty, down-to-earth,

God-with-us kind of Advent.

One that reminds us that life with you is not just theoretical,

But one that is rooted in your love

and that embraces all that we are.

So go forth from this hour trusting that the mystery of Advent
and the wonder of God can be encountered here and now.

†Postlude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Held

Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

Worship Notes

Litanies for an honest advent written by Rev. Brittany McDonald Null

Angels from the Realms of Glory, Words: James Montgomery, 1816, 185, alt. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th C.; adapt. Gerard Moultrie, 1864. Music: Traditional French melody, 17th C.; harm. *English Hymnal*, 1906.

God's Love Made Visible, ©1976, 1978, St. Francis Music Co. and Malcolm Music, Ltd. Words: Iola Brubeck, 1975. Music: Dave Brubeck, 1975.

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Poinsettia Honors & Memorials

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.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 18

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour – Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 1:30 pm Chancel Bells Holiday Adventure

Monday, December 19

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, December 21

- 10:00 am Yoga Class
- 6:30-7:30 pm Chancel Bells

Thursday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 24

- 11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

- 11:15 am Combined Worship in the Sanctuary

Announcements

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



Christmas Eve Worship - 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

With joy, we will celebrate the coming of Christ with carols, the retelling of the Christmas story, and the tradition of sharing the light with candles as we sing “Silent Night.” Bring family and friends and join us as we worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 pm.

Christmas Day Combined Worship

Sunday, December 25 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary

We will celebrate Christmas with one Combined Worship Service at 11:15 on Sunday, December 25, in the Sanctuary. There will be no 9:15 worship, First Kids Sunday School, Adult Small Groups, or childcare. The service will be an abbreviated Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Traditional Worship Pre-service Music

Leading up to Christmas, we invite those who attend Traditional Worship to come early and hear pre-service music to celebrate the season.

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.

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.

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.



First Baptist Church
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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