



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, December 23rd, 2018 The Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Indicates congregation is invited to stand as able*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: In this season of Advent we gather in this place to belong this morning, Lord binding up our broken-heartedness, freeing us from our shackles, releasing us from our blindness, and replacing our sadness with joy. Take off our garment of despair, Lord, and dress us with party clothes of praise! Come to us Lord Jesus and adorn us with Hope; adorn us with Peace; adorn us with Joy; adorn us with Love. Amen!

Music for Gathering

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Mark Anderson
Christa Walsh

Opportunities for Life and Service

Joel Russell-MacLean

Advent Chimes

Mark Anderson

The Advent Of Christ

The Candle of Love

*The Introit

“A Candle Is Burning”
(tune- Away in a Manger)

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth**

***Responsive Call to Worship: Philippians 4: 4-7** Joel Russell-MacLean

Leader: Rejoice, in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

Leader: The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything,

Choir: *But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

All: And the love and peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Make us new again, then we will be saved.

Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

***Prayer and Welcome**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Welcoming One Another**

We Approach God

***Reflective Moment** “Adore” Graham Kendrick & Martin Chalk

You stepped down from heaven; humbly, you came.

God of all creation here with us.

In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, light of the world here to save.

Adore, come, let us adore; O come, let us adore him!

The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

Confession of Sin Jennifer Holtslander

Assurance of Pardon

***Carol of Praise** “Hark the Glad Sound!”

The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this carol and are welcome to remain at the front during the scripture reading and the sermon.

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

**Hark! The glad sound! The Saviour comes, The Saviour promised long:
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne and ev’ry voice a song.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heavens’ eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.**

Children’s Blessing

Joel Russell-MacLean

Gift of Music

Sanctuary Choir

We Listen to God

Scripture Reader:

Louise Krueger

Responsorial Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light
has shined.**

Leader: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

*Choir: They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people
exult when dividing plunder.*

Leader: For thy yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of
Midian.

All: **For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;**

Leader: Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father Prince
of Peace.

*Choir: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless
peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

Leader: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore the zeal
of the Lord of hosts will do this.

All: **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.**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*Carol of Adoration “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

‘Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

(Refrain:)

“Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born: in excelsis Gloria!”

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty ‘round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh the angel song rang loud and high:

(Refrain)

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy, who brings you beauty, love, and joy.

(Refrain)

Gift of Music “The Holly and the Ivy” Angeline Holtlander,
Katrina Sentis & Maizy Russell-MacLean

O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, Congregation
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing of the choir.

Sermon “A Christmas Love Note” John Nelson

We Respond to God

*Carol Response

“Love Has Come!”
(Tune: “Bring a Torch”)

**Love has come a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Saviour!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come he never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us;
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Prayers of the People

Jennifer Holtlander

The Lord’s Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Gifts & Offerings

“Sonatina in C Major”

Adoniram Holtlander

*Response of Praise “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*Unison Benediction

John Nelson

Now, on this fourth Sunday of Advent,
as we go from this place of worship,
we go with the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit,
we go with the **WORD** of God dwelling in us richly,
we go into the world with the **JOY** of the Holy Spirit,
and the peace Christ gives will be ours.
We go in **PEACE**, trusting in how great God is
and who has won our hearts.
We go with **HOPE** from this place to belong with **LOVE** for one another
which Christ commands, trusting in God’s provision.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the highest. Amen!

Music for Departing

“Joy to the World” (Varner)

Mark Anderson

A Time For Friends - All are invited downstairs for refreshments and snacks following the morning worship service.

Deacon on Duty:

Anyone desiring prayer is invited to come to the front of the sanctuary on the right hand side. One of our deacons will be there to listen and to pray with you.

Our condolences to Collin Carbno and family on the passing of his mother Charlotte on Monday. The funeral was held in Regina on Saturday.

Thank you to everyone who helped with last Sunday’s Christmas Glory Concert!

Finance note: Reminder that in order to qualify for the 2018 tax year, donations must arrive at the church by December 31st.

Christmas Glory, 2018



