



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, November 29th, 2020

First Sunday in Advent

**Indicates congregation is invited to stand as able*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: Gracious Holy Spirit, we sit here pondering the beginning of the Christmas season. To you, Lord, we lift up our souls. Clear out the dread of days to come; wash away the shame of days poorly spent; teach us the joy of days prayerfully ordered. Make our love for one another increase and overflow. To you, Lord, we lift up our souls. Amen.

Seasonal Music for Gathering

Christmas Glory Reflections

Opportunities for Life and Service

Joel Russell-MacLean

Morning Chimes

Mark Anderson

*Song of Gathering "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, HOPE of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

The First Advent Candle "The Candle of Hope" Kayely and Gerald Rich and family

*Carol of Gathering “Light the Light, the Fire of Life” (*Tune - Il Est Ne*)

(Refrain:)

**Light the light, the fire of life; light the candle reveal his glory.
Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.**

**Light the candle of his hope, light the light of prophet’s story,
Light the candle of his hope, light the light we all must hold.**

(Refrain)

*Responsive Call to Worship

Joel Russell-MacLean

Leader: Who shall come in the fullness of time to gladden the hearts of all?

**All: Who shall bring new hope to the world, and the poor and
lonely defend?**

Leader: Who shall come on a cold winter’s night, when the world
is hushed and still?

All: Only the silent stars keep watch as a promise is fulfilled.

Leader: Just as a child newly born he shall come to a stable rough
with sod.

All: ‘Tis Jesus, Prince of Peace, the blessed Son of God.

Leader: We await him with reverent hearts. Come, Emmanuel!

*Choral Response “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

*Unison Prayer An Advent Prayer

God of Advents past and Advent present, send down your message of hope, peace, joy and love in this our Advent journey to Bethlehem. May we come before you with joyful hearts in hope of experiencing anew the kneeling at Bethlehem to adore your “Gift” to us: Emmanuel! Amen!

Leader: Welcome on this first Advent Sunday in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is coming.

All: **Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

We Approach God

*Carol of Expectancy “Christians All, Your Lord is Coming”
(Tune- Hymn to Joy, #1)

**Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God’s glory, kneel and pause to hear God’s word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.**

**Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands,
Beat the words that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.**

Children’s Blessing

Joel Russell-MacLean

Gift of Music

Christa Walsh

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon

Richard Hovey

We Listen to God

*Carol of Hope

“How Suddenly a Baby Cries”

(Keith/Kristyn Getty/Fionian de Barra, from “The Star of the Country Down”)

**How suddenly a baby cries and all forever change
As shepherds leave the angel song to find this holy place,
Where in her young and trembling arms a virgin holds her Son.
And in this Child of breath divine our Light has finally come.**

**How suddenly a baby cried and all forever changed.
Through hist'ry, soul by soul have come to find his healing grace.
He filled my troubled heart with peace, with hope of endless worth.
My voice will join the song of praise that tells Messiah's birth.**

Scripture Reader

Tim Long/Brenda Beckman Long

Old Testament Lesson: Zechariah 1: 1-6

Responsorial Lesson: Luke 1: 67-69

Leader: Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has come to God's people and redeemed them.

All: God has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of the Lord's servant David,

Leader: As God spoke through the mouth of the holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

All: Thus the Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered the holy covenant, the oath that the Lord swore to our ancestor Abraham,

Leader: To grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before the Lord all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare the Lord ways,

All: To give knowledge of salvation to the Lord's people by the forgiveness of their sins.

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

All: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 5-25

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gift of Music “Joy to the World” (Christmas Glory ‘03) Becky Findlay

Sermon “I am Zechariah” John Nelson

We Respond to God

*Carol of Promise “Joy to the World” #125, v 1, 2

Prayers of the People Richard Hovey

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 Joel Russell-MacLean

*Response of Praise “Adore” G. Kendrick & M. 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.

*Benediction John Nelson

My prayer for all of you this Advent...

my wish for all of you this Christmas is...

May the love of Jesus be seen in you.

May the Spirit of Jesus work through you

And may the joy of Jesus radiate from you;

Blessings to all of you on this first Sunday of Advent

and through the coming Christmas season!

Join others for a special, "A Time for Friends".

Children, remain in the main Zoom room for a chance to visit with each other and Pastor Kayely.

After the music for departing a few smaller breakout groups will be formed. There is no obligation to stay if you need to be going. If you wish to take part, simply remain on Zoom to greet the group and hear how others are doing.