



# First Baptist Church

*A Place To Belong*

**Worship Service for Sunday, December 13th, 2020**

Third Sunday in Advent

*\*Indicates congregation is invited to stand as able*

## **We Gather as God's People**

**Silent Prayer:** Almighty God, you care for those who are viewed as great and for those who feel they are the least. Following Mary, the great heroine of our faith, help all of us to submit humbly to your will each day. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Seasonal Music for Gathering

Christmas Glory Reflections

"Joy to the World"

Natalie & Maria Fuller ('07)

"A Christmas Antiphona"

Jonathan Talbot/Rob Nelson + Quartet ('97)

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

juBELLation

"Repeat the Sounding Joy"

Mark anderson

Opportunities for Life and Service

Richard Hovey

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 Third Advent Candle "The Candle of Joy"

Russell-MacLeans

\*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 joy, light the light of the shepherds’ coming,  
Light the candle of his joy, light the light that shows the way.**

*(Refrain)*

\*Call to Worship and Prayer

Joel Russell-MacLean

Leader:    There are many who say, “O, that we might see some good.”

**All:            Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!**

Leader:    Jesus Christ is coming.

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

## **We Approach God**

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\*Carol of Praise

“Long Ago, Prophets Knew”

**Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,  
Come to make all things new, bear his people’s burden,  
Freely love and pardon.**

*(Refrain:)*

**Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?**

**God in time, God in man, this is God’s timeless plan:**

**God will come, as a man, born himself of woman, God divinely human. (*Refrain*)**

**Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.**

**In her womb, God is laid till the time expected, nurtured and protected. (*Refrain*)**

**Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar: unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry.**

*(Final Refrain:)*

**Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes; we will make him welcome.**

Children's Blessing

Joel Russell-MacLean

Gift of Music

"O Come all Ye Faithful"

Lorna Gorman

Confession of Sin  
Assurance of Pardon

John Nelson

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Carol of Preparation

"Once in Royal David's City"

#155

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby In a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.**

Responsorial Lesson: Luke 1.46-55

Leader: And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

**All: From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.**

Leader: His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

**All: He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.**

Leader: He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

**All: He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.'**

**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 1.26-38

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Gift of Music

"Gesu Bambino"

Karen Martin

Sermon

"Preparing our Hearts for Joy"

Kayely Rich

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Carol of Response

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#141

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv’n;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his Heav’n.  
No ear may hear God’s coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

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

Prayers of the People

John Hilmer

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

**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

Kayely Rich

Music for Departing

Mark Anderson

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

*Children are invited to 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.*