



# First Baptist Church

*A Place To Belong*

## Worship Service for Sunday, December 11, 2022

The Third Sunday of Advent

*\*Please stand as you are able whether you are participating at home or in the sanctuary.*

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**Silent Prayer:** Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Traditional Collect)

Music for Gathering

“Trumpet Voluntary”  
(J. Clarke; Arr. R.S. Hollis)

juBELLation  
Mark Anderson, organ  
Matthew Field, trumpet

Opportunities for Life and Service

Cheryl Johnston

Morning Chimes

Mark Anderson

\*The Introit

“Come and Worship”  
(Bebo Norman)

**Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night.**

**God with man is now residing yonder shines the infant light.**

**Come and worship, come and worship, come and worship,**

**Worship Christ the newborn King.(2x)**

\*Responsive Call to Worship

Chris Senger

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy for the Lord is coming, he is coming to judge the earth.

**All: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth.**

Prayer of Invocation

Leader: Welcome in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is coming.

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

Welcoming One Another

## **We Approach God**

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\*Hymn of Praise "O Thou Joyful" #119

*The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this song.*

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, grace-revealing Christmastide!  
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us; glorify the holy Child!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, love-revealing Christmastide!  
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing: May thy love with us abide!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, peace-revealing Christmastide!  
Darkness disappeareth, God's own light now neareth: Peace and joy to all betide!**

Advent Candle Lighting Ray Schultz

\*Hymn of Praise "How Great Our Joy!" #144

**While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.**

**How great our joy! Great our joy!**

**Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (2x)**

**There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today.**

**How great our joy! Great our joy!**

**Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (2x)**

**There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all.**

**How great our joy! Great our joy!**

**Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (2x)**

**This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.**

**How great our joy! Great our joy!**

**Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! (2x)**

Children's Blessing Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music "Good King Wenceslas" juBELLation  
(Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson)

God at Work in Our Lives Lana Wilkinson

Confession Kayely Rich  
Assurance of Pardon

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Hymn of Approach

“Long Ago Prophets Knew”

Congregation  
juBELLation

**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.**

**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:  
He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.**

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

**Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid; till the time expected  
Nurtured and protected.**

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

**Journey ends! Where afar Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar: Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!**

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

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (p. 663, Old Testament section)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 146:5-10

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**All: The Lord who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: The Lord executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

**All: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

Leader: The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked the Lord brings to ruin.

**All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

\*Gloria Patri

#623

**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. Amen.**

Epistle Lesson: James 5:7-10 (p. 231, New Testament section)

\*Gospel lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 (p. 11, New Testament section)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“God’s Joy-Bringing Word”

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Hymn of Response

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

#128

**It came upon a midnight clear that glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men from heavens all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing**

**And ye beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heav'n and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

Prayers of the People

Dell Bornowsky

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Our Gifts and Offerings

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*Hymn for Departing

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#141

**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!**

\*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”  
(Johnson)

Mark Anderson

Following the worship service, you are invited to the lower hall for “A Time for Friends” — an opportunity to fellowship with one another and enjoy some refreshments together.

For those of you on Zoom, 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 be invited to a group and hear how others are doing.

## December Events

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“The Story of Christmas” concert	December 11, 7:00 pm
Service of Comfort & Hope	December 15, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight service	December 24, 6:00 pm

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