



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, December 18, 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Silent Prayer: O Lord, raise up your power. Come among us and with great might assist us. Help us to recognize you in our midst. Where through our sins and wickedness, we are hindered in running the race set before us, may your bountiful grace and mercy deliver us through your son Jesus Christ. All glory and honour be yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. (Traditional collect)

Music for Gathering “Still, Still, Still” & “Dream Season” Alison Purdy
(Arr. Yolanda Kondonassis; Yolanda Kondonassis)

Opportunities for Life and Service Kayely Rich

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 us 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 your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,

All: Even as we hope in you.

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

*Hymn of Praise

“The Advent of Our God”

#120

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

The advent of our God with eager hearts we greet;

And we must praise him in this hour with hymns and anthems sweet.

All glory to the son, who comes to set us free;

With Father, Spirit, ever One, through all eternity.

Advent Candle Lighting

The Duffy Family

*Hymn of Praise

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#132

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,

And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo. (2x)

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo. (2x)

Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo. (2x)

See within in a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav’n and earth!

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Saviour’s birth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo. (2x)

Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Confession

Joel Russell-MacLean

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God

*Hymn of Approach

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

(Words: C. G. Rosetti; Music: G. T. Holst)

**In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give him—give my heart.**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14 (p. 636, Old Testament section)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

All: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

All: You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

All: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*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: Romans 1:1-7 (p. 152, New Testament section)

*Gospel lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 1, New Testament section)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God

*Hymn of Response

“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”

**God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ, our Saviour was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**In Bethlehem, in Israel, this blessed Babe was born,
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn;
The which his mother Mary did nothing take in scorn.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**From God our heav’nly Father a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And in true love and fellowship each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas is filled with heav’nly grace.**

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

Prayers of the People

Derrick Bellows

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

*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

“And the Glory of the Lord”
(Arr. Chesterton)

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 breakout group 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 the group and hear how others are doing.

Upcoming Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight service	December 24, 6:00 pm
Christmas Day service	December 25, 11:00 am
New Year's Day service	January 1, 11:00 am
