



# First Baptist Church

## Worship Service for Sunday, January 1st, 2023

1st Sunday after Christmas – Epiphany- Visit of the Magi

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

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

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**Silent Prayer:** O God of light and peace, whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen. (Revised Common Lectionary)

Music for Gathering

Grace Liu

Opportunities for Life and Service

Kayely Rich

\*The Introit

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

#145

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him, (x3)  
Christ the Lord!**

\*Call to Worship

Joel Russell-MacLean

Prayer of Invocation

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

**People: And also with you.**

Welcoming One Another

## **We Approach God**

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*The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this song. They will remain in the sanctuary during this morning's worship service. Activity packets will be provided.*

\*Hymn of Preparation

"We Three Kings"

#166

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

*Refrain:*

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.**

**Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship him, God on high.**

**Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,  
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**Glorious now behold Him arise: King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies.**

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Confession of Sin  
Assurance of Pardon

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Hymn of Preparation

“The First Noel”

#136

**The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.**

*Refrain:*

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest, o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**Then entered in those wise men three, full rev’reently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav’nly Lord,  
That hath made heav’n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.**

Scripture Reader

Kayely Rich

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Leader: Give to the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son.

All: **May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people and the hills, in righteousness.

**All: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**All: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**All: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

Leader: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**All: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

Leader: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

**All: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.**

\*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: Ephesians 3:1-12

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Cheryl Johnston

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Hymn of Preparation

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

#163

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav’n and earth adore,  
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav’nly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

Prayers of the People

Cheryl Johnston

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

Cheryl Johnston

\*Response of Praise

“Joy to the World”

#125, v.1

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room, and heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*Benediction

Cheryl Johnston

Music for Departing

Grace Lui

### Epiphany

by Malcolm Guite

It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

## ***January Events:***

Tuesday, January 3 - 7:15. Morning Prayer resumes

Wednesday, January 4 - 12:30 - Noon Prayer resumes

Sunday, January 8 - 11:00 am – Communion Sunday  
9:30 - Learning for Life resumes.

Tuesday, January 10, 7:30-9:00 – Spiritual Formation small group (based on the book *Sensible Shoes*, by Sharon G. Brown) begins. For more information contact Pastor Cheryl or Pastor Kayely and see page 6 of the last newsletter. To sign up, please use the form in the newsletter or contact the office by phone or email.