



# First Baptist Church

**Worship Service for Sunday, December 3rd, 2023**

First Sunday in Advent

*Welcome! Young children are welcome in the service or in our staffed nursery.*

*The collection is taken at the doorways as you enter the sanctuary.*

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

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

**Silent Prayer:** Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; so that in the last day, when he comes again in his glorious Majesty, to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal. in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Calla-Dawn Brooks

Opportunities for Life and Service

Cheryl Johnston

Morning Chimes

\*The Introit

“Come and Worship”

(tune by Norman Bebo)

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er the Earth.**

**Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim the Messiah's birth.**

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

**Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;**

**Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.**

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

**Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

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

Welcoming One Another

## **We Approach God**

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\*Carol of Praise                      “Sing We Now of Christmas”

*The children are invited forward before going downstairs for their own time of worship.*

**Sing we now of Christmas, Noël, sing we here!**

**Listen to our praises to the babe so dear.**

**Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!**

**Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

**Shepherds on the hillside heard the angels sing:**

**“Glory, honour, praises to the infant King.”**

**Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!**

**Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

**In the town they found him, son of Mary mild,**

**Sleeping in a manger, was the holy child.**

**Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!**

**Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

**Wise men sought and found him, treasures did they bring;**

**Bowing down they worshiped Christ the King of kings.**

**Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!**

**Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

Advent Candle Lighting

\*Carol of Anticipation      "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"      #123, v. 1, 2, 4

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

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Gift of Music      "Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love"      Sanctuary Choir  
(by Joseph Martin)

## **We Listen to God**

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Scripture Reader

Deborah Nelson

Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 3:1-5

(O.T. page 889)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 85

Leader: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

**All: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for the Lord will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**All: Surely the Lord's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that the Lord's glory may dwell in our land.**

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**All: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

**Glory 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: Matthew 21:1-13

(N.T. page 23)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Celebrate**

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\*Carol of Approach

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

#127

**Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,  
When thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
For thy holy nativity.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for thee.**

**Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
And in great humility.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**Thou camest, O Lord, as the living word  
That should set thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
They bore thee to Calvary.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,  
At thy coming to victory,  
Let thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,  
There is room at my side for thee."  
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
When thou comest and callest for me.**

**\*Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Call to the Supper

Kayely Rich

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful and loving God, we confess to you before all of heaven, and before one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us and restore us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

## The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is right and good, always and everywhere to give thanks to you Lord, Holy Father, Creator of heaven and earth... We praise you, joining the angels of heaven, all our sisters and brothers around the world, and the faithful departed ..., saying:

All: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is Jesus who came and will come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## Prayers of the People

Joel Russell-MacLean

### 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.**

## The Words of Consecration

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you came to set us free from sin, death and the devil. With love, we offer ourselves to you, fully and completely, as living sacrifices, as we proclaim the good news:

All: **Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

## Our Gifts and Offerings

Kayely Rich

Minister: Come Holy Spirit, be with us as we take this bread and cup as genuine symbols of the body and blood of Jesus. Unite us to Jesus and bring us, in the end, with all the faithful, to resurrection and everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

## Communion

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Carol 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.**

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Xavier Russell-MacLean

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited to the lower hall for refreshments following the service.

Parents:

Please go to meet your children in Godly Play and Nursery as they can only be dismissed into your care.