



# First Baptist Church

**Worship Service for Sunday, December 17th, 2023**

Third 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:** 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 Xavier Russell-MacLean

Opportunities for Life and Service Cheryl Johnston

Morning Chimes Xavier Russell-MacLean

\*The Introit "Come and Worship" (tune by Norman Bebo)

**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.**

**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, 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                    “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

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

**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.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Adzo Baku

\*Carol of Praise

“O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful”

#119

**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!**

Confession of Sin  
Assurance of Pardon

Joel Russell-MacLean

Gift of Music

“A Nigerian Christmas Medley:  
Abu Umu Anu & E Lu Agogo”

Oluseye Popoola

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Carol of Approach      “Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming”

(Words: Jim Miller; Music: J Leavitt, D Murphy)

**Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.  
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.  
Dance and move to show God’s glory; kneel and pause to hear God’s word.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.**

**Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed.  
See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.  
Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.**

**Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.  
Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands.  
Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.**

Scripture Reader

Enoch Ernest

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:4-13

N.T. page 232

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 5

Leader: Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.

**All: Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.**

Leader: O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

**All: For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you.**

Leader: But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house,

**All: I will bow down towards your holy temple in awe of you.**

Leader: But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.

**All: Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you.**

\*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.**

\*Gospel Lesson: John 3:26-29

N.T. page 94

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Carol of Response

“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 heav’n above,  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Prayers of the People

Kayely Rich

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

Kayely Rich

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*Hymn for Departing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

#128 v. 3, 4

**O you, 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.**

\*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Oluseye Popoola

"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.

## Coming up ...

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<b>Dec 17</b>	11:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent
<b>Dec 19</b>	1:00 pm	North of 60
<b>Dec 21</b>	7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service
<b>Dec 24</b>	11:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
<b>Dec 25</b>	11:00 am	Christmas Day Service

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