



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, January 5th, 2025
Epiphany Sunday

**Indicates congregation is invited to stand as able*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: God, you led the nations by a star to your only-begotten Son and revealed him. In your mercy, may we, who know you now by faith, be led through this earthly life, until we see the vision of your heavenly glory; in Jesus 'name. Amen.

Opportunities for Life and Service

Chris Senger

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

*Call to Worship and Prayer

Cheryl Johnston

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: Jesus Christ is born for us!

People: Alleluia! Christ is born!

Welcoming One Another

We Approach God

* Carol of Praise

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

#163

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

**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 God, 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, ev’ry 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.**

We Listen to God

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

*Carol of Praise

"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 light, 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, voices raising, worshiping God on high. *(Refrain)***

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

**Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. *(Refrain)***

Gift of Music

Marilyn Phillips

Scripture Reader

Edie Hiltz

Epistle Lesson: Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 3.1-12

N.T. page 193

Responsorial Lesson: Isaiah 60

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

Leader: But the Lord will arise upon you, and the Lord's glory will appear over you.

All: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Leader: The wealth of the nations shall come to you.

All: They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Leader: Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut,

All: Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders;

Leader: For the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

All: 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: The Gospel According to Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. page 2

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"They Bowed Down and Worshipped Him"

Eric Warren

We Celebrate

*Hymn of Preparation

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

#167

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.**

**O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy:
For now the flow'rs of Nazareth in ev'ry heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.**

**O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.**

**O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay;
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away:
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heav'n adored, is mighty now to save.**

*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
Confession

Cheryl Johnston

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

Chris Senger

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

Cheryl Johnston

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

* Carol of Response

“Joy to the World”

#125 v.1,3

**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.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

We Depart to Serve God

*Benediction

Eric Warren

Music for Departing

Xavier Russell-MacLean

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited downstairs 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.