



First Baptist Church

Worship Service for Sunday, December 15th, 2024 Third Sunday of 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

Calla-Dawn Brooks

Opportunities for Life and Service

*The Introit

*"A Candle Is Burning"
(tune: Away In a Manger)*

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
A candle to welcome brace Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer

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

*Carol of Praise

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this song before going downstairs for Godly Play and Oasis.

**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.**

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

**Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them,
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.**

**Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
Bidding all to true repentance since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.**

**Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign;
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.**

Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“So We Come to Find the Child”
(Mary Kay Beall)

Sanctuary

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God

*Carol of Approach

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#141

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**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!**

Scripture Reader

Old Testament Lesson: The Prophet Zephaniah 3:14-20

O.T. Page

Epistle Lesson: Paul’s Letter to the Philippians 4:4-7

N.T. Page

Responsorial Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

All: For the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

All: Give thanks to the Lord, call on the Lord's name; make known the Lord's deeds among the nations; proclaim that the Lord's name is exalted.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for the Lord has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

All: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*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: The Gospel According to Luke 3:15-18

N.T. page 6

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Cheryl Johnston

We Respond to God

*Carol of Response

“How Great our Joy”

#144

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.

(Refrain:)

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today. *(Refrain)*

There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all. *(Refrain)*

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. *(Refrain)*

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Gifts and Offerings

Joel Russell-MacLean

We Depart to Serve God

*Hymn for Departing “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.**

**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.**

*Benediction Cheryl Johnston

Music for Departing Calla-Dawn Brooks

“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.

“So We Come to Find the Child”

(Mary Kay Beall)

As shepherds came, curious, trembling,
As shepherds came long ago;
As shepherds came, curious, trembling,
So we come to find the child.

As wise men came, seeking, yearning,
As wise men came long ago; (so long ago;)
As wise men came, seeking, yearning,
So we come to find the child.

The gifts we bring are simple things,
No precious stones, no golden rings.
We come before the King of Kings,
To offer him our hearts, our hearts!

As angels came, singing, praising,
As angels came long ago, so long ago,
As angels came, singing, praising,
So we come, so we come to find the Child, the Child.

First Baptist Church Regina
2241 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S4
Phone: 306.359.1450

Pastors: Joel Russell-MacLean, Cheryl Johnston, Kayely Rich, Chris Senger

Website: www.firstbaptistregina.ca
E-mail: main_fbcregina@sasktel.net