



# *First Baptist Church*

## **Worship Service for Sunday, December 8th, 2024 Second 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**

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**Silent Prayer:** Blessed Lord, you caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest your words, so that by patience, and the comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Oluwaseye Popoola

Opportunities for Life and Service

Joel Russell-MacLean

\*The Introit

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

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

## Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer

### Unison Prayer

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**Where there is injury, pardon;**

**Where there is doubt, faith;**

**Where there is despair, hope;**

**Where there is sadness, joy;**

**And where there is darkness, light.**

**Grant that we may seek**

**not so much to be consoled as to console,**

**to be understood as to understand,**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,**

**in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

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

“Long Ago, Prophets Knew”

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

**Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,  
Come to make all things new, bear his people's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?**

**God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan:  
God will come, as a man, born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?**

**Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid; till the time expected,  
Nurtured and protected.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?**

**Journey ends! Where afar Beth'lem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar: Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes, we will make him welcome!**

Gift of Music

“Away in a Manger”

Seasonal Ringers

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“A Christmas Invitation”

*(Words & music: Douglas Nolan)*

*Lyrics can be found at the back the bulletin.*

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Carol of Approach      “Of the Father's Love Begotten”      #118

**Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!**

**O ye heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,  
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unending praises be,  
Honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!**

Scripture Reader      Ben Friesen

Old Testament Lesson: The Prophet Isaiah 40:1-11      O.T. Page 667

Responsorial Lesson: The Gospel According to Luke 1:68-79

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for the Lord has visited the people and redeemed them.

**All: The Lord has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David.**

Leader: As the Lord spoke through the mouth of the holy prophets from of old:

**All: That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Leader: Thus the Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered the holy covenant, the Lord has remembered the oath that swore to our ancestor Abraham:

**All: To grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before the Lord all our days.**

Leader: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**All: To give knowledge of salvation to the people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God, heaven's dawn will break upon us.

**All: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

\*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 3:1-6

N.T. page 60

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

"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.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Our Gifts and Offerings

Chris Senger

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*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

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Oluwaseye Popoola

### **“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.

**“A Christmas Invitation”**  
*(Words & music: Douglas Nolan)*

Come hear the song the angels sing to the tiny newborn King.  
Come and bring a heart of praise; come and kneel where Jesus lays.  
Come feel the warmth of Beth’lem’s star, shining bright to light the dark.  
Come see the babe, God’s precious pearl, whose glorious life will light the world.

Some looked for a mighty man; heaven sent a tiny Lamb.  
Some looked for a conquering king; heaven sent the Prince of Peace.

Come hold the Child and wonder why there’s a tear within your eye.  
Could it be you know someday he’ll hold you close in that same way.  
In his arms you’ll ever stay. In his arms you’ll ever stay.  
In his arms you’ll ever stay. In his arms you’ll stay.



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