



First Baptist Church

Worship Service for Sunday, January 12th, 2025

1st Sunday in Epiphany

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: God, in the beginning it was your will to create a realm in which life can flourish. By your Word and Spirit it was so. Then you sent your Word and Spirit into world to secure the goal of all your work and to sustain all things by grace as creation moves towards its good end. May we live in the new life of Jesus' baptism until the day comes in full. In his name we pray. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Calla-Dawn Brooks

Opportunities for Life and Service

Cheryl Johnston

*The Introit

“Thanks and Praise”

by Songs from the Soil

**We are here together, to lift our hearts as one.
We're in our Father's presence, his Spirit is with us:**

(Refrain:)

**It is good to lift the name of the Lord, our God,
It is right to give him thanks and praise;
For his heart is overflowing with love for us
And his mercy, we can never contain.**

**And each and every morning, we'll tell of his great love,
Of all his faithful mercies, and all that he has done,
For who can match his kindness, and who can count his works?
Oh, let our praise continue, 'til evening draws in close. *(Refrain)***

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.

All: And also with you.

Welcoming One Another

We Approach God

*Hymn of Praise

“Our Great God”

(Fernando Ortega and Mac Powell)

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

**Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious, and unknown
Your boundless love, unending, in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight around your glorious throne,
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you alone.**

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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**Lord, we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm.
Surround us with your angels hold us in your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.**

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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**Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth,
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe,
Sing praises to the living God who rules them by his word.**

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“Ancient Words”

Sanctuary Choir

(Lynn DeShazo; Arr. John Purifoy - Lyrics found at the back of the bulletin)

Prayer of Confession

Joel Russell-MacLean

Assurance of Pardon

**The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave his Son to win,
His erring child, he reconciled and pardoned from his sin.**

Refrain:

**O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure— the saints’ and angels’ song.**

**When years of time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God’s love so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming Grace to Adam’s race - the saints’ and angels’ song. *(Refrain)***

**Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev’ry stalk on earth a quill, and ev’ryone a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.
*(Refrain)***

We Listen to God

Scripture Reader

Susan Bornowsky

Old Testament Lesson: The Prophet Isaiah 43:1-4

O.T. Page 672

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 36

Leader: Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in their hearts; there is no fear of God before their eyes.

All: For they flatter themselves in their own eyes that their iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

Leader: They have ceased to act wisely and do good. They are set on a way that is not good; they do not reject evil.

All: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Leader: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the abyss;

All: You save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

All: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

All: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

*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 3:1-22

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

*Hymn of Response

“We Come, O Christ, to You”

#117, v 1-4

**We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began.
In you alone we live and move and have our being in your love.**

**You are the way to God, your blood our ransom paid;
In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand; your love has met your law’s demand.**

**You are the living truth; all wisdom dwells in you,
The source of every skill, the one eternal True!
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.**

**You only are true life to know you is to live
The more abundant life that earth can never give.
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!**

Prayers of the People

Ron Phillips

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

“The Goodness of Jesus”

by City Alight

**Come you weary heart now to Jesus,
Come you anxious soul now and see,
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears:
Rest here in his wondrous peace.**

(Refrain:)

**Oh, the goodness, the goodness of Jesus,
Satisfied, he is all that I need.
May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days
In the goodness of Jesus.**

**Come and find your hope now in Jesus,
He is all he said he would be.
Grace is overflowing from the Saviour's heart:
Rest here in his wondrous peace. *(Refrain)***

*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Calla-Dawn Brooks

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited outside for refreshments following the service.

"Ancient Words"
(by Lynn DeShazo; Arr. John Purifoy)

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart. Oh, let the ancient words impart.

Words of life, words of hope give us strength, help us cope.
In this world, where e'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, oh let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice. Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, oh let the ancient words impart.

In this world, where e'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.
We have come with open hearts, oh let the ancient words impart.

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