



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, November 23, 2025

The Sunday Before 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: God, your Son came into the world to destroy the works of the devil and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; so that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *(From The Book of Common Prayer)*

Music for Gathering

Oluseye Popoola

Opportunities for Life and Service

Chris Senger

*The Introit

"Days of Elijah"
(by Robin Mark)

**These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord;
And these are the days of your servant Moses, righteousness being restored.
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in your world;
And we are the labourers in your vineyard, declaring the word of the Lord.**

**Behold he comes riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call,
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.**

Call to Worship and Prayer

Joel Russell-MacLean

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

“He Hideth My Soul”

#496

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

**A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Saviour to me.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.**

Refrain:

**He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land.
He hideth my life in the depths of his love,
And covers me there with his hand,
And covers me there with his hand.**

**A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord—
He taketh my burden away.
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved,
He giveth me strength as my day. (Refrain)**

**With numberless blessings each moment he crowns,
And filled with his fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, “Oh, glory to God
For such a Redeemer as mine!” (Refrain)**

**When clothed in his brightness, transported I rise
To meet him in clouds of the sky,
His perfect salvation, his wonderful love,
I’ll shout with the millions on high. (Refrain)**

Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“Song of a Heavy Heart (Psalm 142)”

Marilyn Phillips

We Listen to God

Old Testament Lesson: Selected verses from Job

Reflection

“God-Inspired Words of Grief”

Joel Russell-MacLean

*Hymn of Response

“Faithful One”

(by Brian Doerksen)

Faithful one, so unchanging

Ageless one, you’re my rock of peace.

Lord of all I depend on you;

I call out to you, again and again;

I call out to you, again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble.

You lift me up when I fall down.

All through the storm your love is, the anchor.

My hope is in you alone.

Reflection

“God Calls Platitudes Misleading”

Joel Russell-MacLean

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 22

Leader: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All: Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

Leader: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

All: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Leader: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

All: To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

Leader: But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All: All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

Leader: “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

All: Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

Leader: On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

All: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Glory be to Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Reflection

“Job Was God’s Handiwork”

Joel Russell-MacLean

*Hymn of Response “The King Shall Come”

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old a little child,
To bear, and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And earth’s dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn,
The day that aye shall last.**

**And let the endless bliss begin,
By weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong,
And truth shall be extolled.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns,
And light and beauty brings;
“Hail, Christ the Lord!” Thy people pray,
Come quickly, King of kings!**

Reflection “God Cries Out” Joel Russell-MacLean

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:22-26

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God

*Hymn of Response

"It Is Well with My soul"

#493

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

Refrain:

**It is well with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul. (*Refrain*)**

**My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (*Refrain*)**

**And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul. (*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

“Cornerstone”

(by Eric Liljero, Reuben Morgan, and Jonas Myrin; Arr. Lloyd Larson)

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.**

Refrain:

**Christ alone, Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Saviour’s love.
Through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all.**

**When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. *(Refrain)***

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless, stand before the throne. *(Refrain)***

*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Oluseye Popoola

Business Meeting Following the Morning Service

Following the Music for Departing, we will have our November congregational meeting in the lower hall. Our proposed 2025 budget will be the main topic of discussion. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Parents: Please go to meet your children in the nursery and children’s program as they can only be dismissed into your care.

For live translation in French, Swahili, Punjabi, or Filipino (English also available for those having trouble hearing), scan here:



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