



# *First Baptist Church*

*A Place To Belong*

## **Worship Service for Sunday, December 14, 2025**

3rd 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:** Heavenly Father, you sent your messengers to prepare the way before Jesus: Grant that we as your ministers may likewise so prepare and make ready his way that at his second coming to judge the world we might all be found ready in your sight, through him who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Oluseye Popoola

Opportunities for Life and Service

Chris Senger

\*The Introit

"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

*(by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend and Keith Getty)*

**Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold.  
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.  
God most high in a manger laid; lift your voices and now proclaim:  
Great and glorious, love has come to us; join now with the hosts of heaven.  
  
Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless he lay, the invincible, maker of Mary, now Mary's son.  
O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility; come on bended knee, adore him.**

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 is coming.

**All: Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Welcoming One Another

## **We Approach God**

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\*Carol of Praise

“Once in Royal David’s City”

#155

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

**Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles, like us, he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav’n above,  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“For Unto Us”  
(Words printed on p. 7)

Sanctuary Choir

Call to Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Carol of Preparation

“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*)**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (p. 663, Old Testament section)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 146:5-10

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**All: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**All: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

Leader: The LORD watches over the strangers; The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**All: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

\*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.**

Epistle Lesson: James 5:7-10 (p. 231, New Testament section)

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 (p. 11, New Testament section)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Work of Living It Out Together”

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Carol of Response

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

**God rest ye 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.**

*Refrain:*

**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. *(Refrain)***

**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. *(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**

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\*Hymn for Departing

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

#128, vs 1 & 4

**It came upon the 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 heav’n’s all-gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening 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.**

\*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Oluseye Popoola

Following the service, you are invited to the lower hall for “A Time for Friends”—an opportunity to fellowship with one another and enjoy some refreshments together

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

## **For Unto Us**

*(by Natalie Sleeth)*

For unto us a child is born! For unto us a Son is giv'n.

Let the whole wide earth be filled with joy, for in Bethlehem is born a boy.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

He shall be called the Son of God! He shall be called the Prince of Peace!

Let the earth bow down and him adore, for his truth shall reign forevermore.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

He comes to light the darkness, he comes to end the night,

To fill the earth with gladness and sorrow put to flight.

Be thankful now and praises bring; songs of welcome let us sing;

Hail him, hail him the King!

O blessed be this joyful day! O blessed be this happy morn!

Go and spread the word both far and near that the Saviour Christ the Lord is here!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

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



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