



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, December 21, 2025

4th 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: Lord, raise up your power, come among us and with great might assist us. Help us to recognize you in our midst. When our sins hinder us in running the race set before us, may your love and mercy deliver us through your son Jesus Christ. All glory and honour be yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. *(Traditional Collect)*

Music for Gathering

“Up on the House Top”

Lilen Wollbaum, Piano

“Joy to the World”

Dan Daniel, Piano

“Christmas Hallelujah”

Danell Daniel, Piano

“Silent Night”

Christine Cantor, Piano

Opportunities for Life and Service

Cheryl Johnston

*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

*Carol of Praise

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#132

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

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavn'ly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.

Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise.

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“One Star”
(by Cheryl Rogers)

John Nelson

Call to Confession

Joel Russell-MacLean

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God

*Carol of Preparation

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1-7 (p. 152, New Testament section)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

All: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

All: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*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: Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 1, New Testament section)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Carol of Preparation

“Guard Him, Joseph”

(by Sally Deford)

**Guard him, Joseph, as he slumbers,
There behind the stable doors.
Let no errant sound distress him,
Tread thou softly on the floor.
Linger watchful round the manger,
Hush thy voice and still the beasts;
For thou hast within thy keeping
Christ, the infant Prince of Peace.**

**Guard him, Joseph, through the darkness;
Watching o’er him till the dawn.
Bid the shepherds enter meekly,
Stand in wonder, gaze in awe,
Trim thy lamp and shield thy candle;
See they burn all through the night
For thou hast within thy keeping
Christ, the everlasting Light.**

**Guard him, Joseph, from all danger;
Keep thy vigil nigh his bed.
Let no harm nor grief befall him;
Stand thou in a father’s stead
When his mother’s arms be weary,
Hold him gently as thine own
For thou hast within thy keeping
God’s own well-beloved Son.**

Sermon

“The Righteousness of Joseph”

Chris Senger

We Respond to God

*Carol of Response

“People Look East”

(by Eleanor Farjeon)

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength, the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Prayers of the People

Henry Friesen

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

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



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