



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, December 7, 2025

2nd 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: Blessed Lord, you caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and the comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast to the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Xavier Russell-MacLean

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.**

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.

Leader: Jesus is coming.

All: Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Welcoming One Another

We Approach God

*Carol of Praise

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

**Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning neath their sorrows' load.**

**Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them,
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.**

**Yes, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he will no more see nor heed.**

**She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.**

**For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.**

**Oh, that warning cry obey, now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.**

**Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign;**

**For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.**

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Gift of Music

“The Body of Christ”
(Words printed on p. 7)

Sanctuary Choir

We Listen to God

Scripture Reader

Karlee Mock

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 (pp. 640-641, Old Testament section)

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

All: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

Leader: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

All: May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

Leader: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

All: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Leader: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

All: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

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

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 (pp. 2-3, New Testament section)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Word: God's Light and Summons to People in the Dark" Joel Russell-MacLean

We Celebrate

*Carol of Preparation

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#141

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above

While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one, holy, universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to the Supper

Joel Russell-MacLean

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful and loving God, we confess to you before all of heaven, and before one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us and restore us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right and good, always and everywhere to give thanks to you Lord, Holy Father, Creator of heaven and earth... We praise you, joining the angels of heaven, all our sisters and brothers around the world, and the faithful departed..., saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is Jesus who came and will come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

*Carol of Preparation

“Adore”

(by Martin Chalk and Graham Kendrick)

**You stepped down from heaven, humbly you came,
God of all creation here with us;
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel. Light of the world here to save.**

Refrain:

**Adore, come let us adore. O come let us adore him.
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord; Let all that is within us adore.**

**Wise men bring their treasure, shepherds bow low;
Angel voices sing of peace on earth.**

**What have I to offer to heaven's King?
I'll bring my love, my life, my all. (*Refrain*)**

The Words of Consecration

Joel Russell-MacLean

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you came to set us free from sin, death and the devil. With love, we offer ourselves to you, fully and completely, as living sacrifices, as we proclaim the good news:

All: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Our Gifts and Offerings

Joel Russell-MacLean

Minister: Come Holy Spirit, be with us as we take this bread and cup as genuine symbols of the body and blood of Jesus. Unite us to Jesus and bring us, in the end, with all the faithful, to resurrection and everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Communion

We Respond to God

*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.**

We Depart to Serve God

*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Xavier Russell-MacLean

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 children’s program as they can only be dismissed into your care.

The Body of Christ

(Words: Marti Lunn Lantz; Music: David Lantz III)

The body of Christ is our salvation and his love is the grace of God.

We gather here for communion, though we're imperfect, our spirits flawed.

As we share the body of Christ, we share his love,

And as we drink from his cup, we share his mercy from above.

We come here as many and leave here as one: One body, one body, the body of Christ.

The body of Christ is our redemption, and it's straight from the heart of God.

We kneel and pray before him, hearts full of reverence, minds full of awe.

As we share the body of Christ, we share his love,

And as we drink from his cup, we share his mercy from above.

We come here as many and leave here as one: One body, one body, the body of Christ.

Learning for Life Option 2 – The Purpose Driven Life

Dates: Sundays at 9:30 am, January 11 to February 15, 2026

Facilitators: Ron & Marilyn Phillips

Location: Prayer Room in the north-west corner of the church balcony

This 6 week course provides a basic grounding in a Christian view of life. Using Rick Warren's book of the same title, the course begins with the question, "What on earth am I here for?" It then answers this question with 5 purposes:

1. You Were Planned for God's Pleasure
2. You Were Formed for God's Family
3. You Were Created to Become Like Christ
4. You Were Shaped for Serving God
5. You Were Made for a Mission

The book, *The Purpose Driven Life* is required for the course and participants are required to read one short chapter (typically 5 pages in length) each day for 40 days. The class meets every 7 days to discuss the previous week's readings. Maximum benefit would be gained from reflecting on each day's reading, perhaps with the help of journaling.

Since the first class (January 11) will review the first 7 days' reading, class participants will need to have their book no later than January 3. If you would like to participate in the class and need a book, please speak to Ron or Marilyn Phillips, or let the church office know, by December 21. The cost is \$10.50. You may be able to borrow the book from someone in the church, as many have it. We would love to have you join us!

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



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To make a donation:



First Baptist Church Regina
2241 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S4
Phone: 306.359.1450

Website: www.firstbaptistregina.ca
E-mail: main@firstbaptistregina.ca

Pastors: Joel Russell-MacLean, Cheryl Johnston, Chris Senger
Staff: Rob Stafford-Lai, Louise Krueger