



First Baptist Church

A Place To Belong

Worship Service for Sunday, January 4th, 2026
Epiphany Sunday

**Indicates congregation is invited to stand as able*

We Gather as God's People

Silent Prayer: God, you led the nations by a star to your only-begotten Son and revealed him. In your mercy, may we, who know you now by faith, be led through this earthly life, until we see the vision of your heavenly glory; in Jesus 'name. Amen.

Music for Gathering

Oluseye Popoola

Opportunities for Life and Service

*The Introit

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#145

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore him, (x3)
Christ the Lord!**

*Call to Worship and Prayer

Chris Senger

Leader: Welcome in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Jesus Christ is born for us!

People: Alleluia! Christ is born!

Welcoming One Another

We Approach God

*Carol of Praise

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

#163

The children are invited forward and will remain at the front for the worship service.

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way,
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

We Listen to God

Children's Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

*Carol of Preparation "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

#131

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

**Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *(Refrain)***

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *(Refrain)***

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: *(Refrain)***

Scripture Reader

Brenda Beckman-Long

Epistle Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

O.T. page 690

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

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: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

All: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

Leader: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

All: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

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: The Gospel According to Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. page 2

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Wise Still Seek Him”

Cheryl Johnston

We Celebrate

*Hymn of Preparation

“The First Noël”

#136

**The first Noël the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, born is the King of Israel.

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)***

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *(Refrain)***

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *(Refrain)***

**Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *(Refrain)***

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. *(Refrain)***

*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 holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to the Supper

Cheryl Johnston

Confession

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.**

Prayers of the People

Chris Senger

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Consecration

Cheryl Johnston

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

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

“Joy to the World”

#125v.1,3

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

We Depart to Serve God

*Benediction

Cheryl Johnston

Music for Departing

Oluseye Popoola

“A Time For Friends”

Everyone is invited downstairs for refreshments following the service.

Parents:

Please go to meet your children in the Nursery as they can only be dismissed into your care.