



# *First Baptist Church*

*A Place To Belong*

## **Worship Service for Sunday, December 28th, 2025 Feast of the Innocents**

*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 of light and peace, whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen. (Revised Common Lectionary)

Music for Gathering

Oluwaseye Popoola

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him, (x3)  
Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye bright hosts of heaven above.  
Glory to God, glory in the highest! *Refrain***

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.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is born for us!

**All: Alleluia! Christ is born!**

Welcoming One Another

## **We Approach God**

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\*Carol of Praise

“O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful”

#119

*The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this song.*

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, grace revealing Christmastide!  
Jesus came to win us, from all sin within us:  
Glorify the holy Child!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, love revealing Christmastide!  
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing:  
May thy love with us abide!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful, peace revealing Christmastide!  
Darkness disappearing, God’s own light now nearing:  
Peace and joy to all betide!**

Children’s Blessing

Joel Russell-MacLean

\*Carol of Praise

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

**Sing we now of Christmas, Noël, sing we here!  
Listen to our praises to the babe so dear.  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

**Shepherds on the hillside heard the angels sing:  
“Glory, honour, praises to the infant King.”  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

**In the town they found him, son of Mary mild,  
Sleeping in a manger, was the holy child.  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noël!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noël!**

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Carol of Approach      "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim  
And wandering hunters heard the hymn:**

*(Refrain:)*

**"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born: in excelsis Gloria!"**

**Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty 'round;  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh  
The angel song rang loud and high: *(Refrain)***

**O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,  
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy,  
Who brings you beauty, love, and joy. *(Refrain)***

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 10

Leader: Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.

All: **Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, “He won’t call me to account”?**

Leader: But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.

All: **The Lord is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land.**

Leader: You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,

All: **Defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.**

\*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: The Gospel According to Matthew 2:13-23

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Respond to God**

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\*Carol of Response "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

#152

**I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he  
sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."**

**Till, ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men.**

Prayers of the People

Jennifer Holtslander

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

## **We Depart to Serve God**

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\*Hymn for Departing

“Joy to the World”

#125 v. 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.**

\*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Oluwaseye Popoola

# *Merry Christmas!*



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