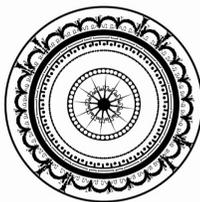


# First Baptist Church on Fifth



**The Worship of God**  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 9, 2018  
10:30am

Organ Voluntary: *Pastorale Prelude* ..... T. Tertius Noble

Jacob Hill, Organ

Invitation to Worship ..... Emily Hull McGee

The Prophecy: Malachi 3:1-4 (Pew Bible, OT, p.692) ..... Randy Peters

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Peace ..... Anna Harris and Matt Steen

*(Please read in silence.)*

On this Peace Sunday, we look squarely into its absence in our world. We carry the Christ-light into the shadows of violence, hatred, anger, instability. We wait, actively and persistently, for God's coming light to overwhelm the world. With the ancient words of Malachi's promise in our hearts, we light the candle of peace, declaring this sign to the world that God's peace for all creation is at hand!

Congregational Response: *Hope, Peace, Joy and Love* ..... R. Edwards

Hope, peace, joy, and love! These are gifts and  
signs from a - bove. Je - sus, Em - man - u - el, come to be  
light of your peace re - flect - ed in me.

\*Processional Hymn 95: *Prepare the Royal Highway* ..... BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

\*Passing of the Peace ..... David Williamson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Anthem: *Come to Where the Shepherds Kneel* ..... D. Lantz

Quiet evening, simple manger, humble shepherds in the field. Baby Jesus, tiny stranger to mankind is now revealed. Angel choirs tell the story, come and bow down, sing His glory. Come to where the shepherds kneel. Virgin Mary, gentle maiden, gazes on the Holy One. For she carried heaven's Savior, sent to earth, God's only Son. Born to show us true compassion, and to mold us in His fashion. Jesus, born of God above. Hallelujah in the highest! Every heart and hand and voice, celebrate our God's Messiah! Let the universe rejoice! All creation praises render, for He reigns in truth and splendor. Come and shout with joyful noise! Hallelujah!

Prayer of Confession ..... Amy McClure

Leader: Jesus was born to show us true compassion  
and reveal how we should live life to the fullest.  
Just as the shepherds drew near to the Christ Child, let us draw near,  
confessing our sins and offering ourselves to the Refiner's fire,  
until we are shaped into the image of the One we seek.

*(Silent confession)*

Leader: Let us pray:

**People: Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Love Made Flesh. Amen.**

Words of Assurance.....Amy McClure

Leader: Sisters and brothers,  
let every heart, hand, and voice celebrate our God's Messiah.  
For in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn 86: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*..... JEFFERSON

Pastoral Prayer for Peace ..... David Williamson

Leader: Come quickly, Lord;  
**People: Our peace is in you.**

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. Amen.**

Anthem: *All Praise to Thee* ..... E. Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir

All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood, dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds on worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia. Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light, to make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine. Alleluia. A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones in Thee may rest; forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heaven from earth. Alleluia. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: Luke 3:1-6 (Pew Bible, New Testament, p.45)..... Emily Hull McGee

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Homily: "Signs Along the Way" ..... Emily Hull McGee

\*Hymn of Response 96: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* ..... HOUSTON

*All are invited to respond to God now in quiet or public ways. Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow in the way of Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front of the sanctuary and share your commitment with one of our ministers.*

\*Offertory Prayer ..... Leslie Lowdermilk

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Ding Dong Merrily on High* ..... arr. S. Tucker

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

Called Church Conference

\*Doxology ..... VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Benediction ..... Emily Hull McGee

Postlude: *The Snow Lay on the Ground* ..... L. Sowerby

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love" words by Randy Edwards and Sherry Upshaw, music by Randy Edwards  
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As the new church year begins, we begin a few new rhythms in our worship this morning. The Prelude will prepare your hearts for worship in the moments before 10:30. A cross-bearer, or crucifer, will lead the procession each week, reminding us of the persistent presence of Christ with us even as we wait for his coming. Opportunities for Ministry will be printed and fully available in our worship folder but not extensively shared verbally during the service. Each shift is intended to create meaningful space for all to share in the worship of God and the renewal of our hearts.

### WORSHIP DURING ADVENT

#### SIGNS: PREACHING THROUGH ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY

"There will be signs..." begins our gospel passage on the first Sunday of Advent. What follows is a vision of what will be as the Son of Man comes, a vision that unfolds in the wilderness with John the Baptist, in the heart of Mary, in a Bethlehem stable, and along the road with some wise men. But what are those signs? In a time when our focus and energies and attention is pulled in countless ways, how might we train our eyes to recognize them? Throughout this season when we await the arrival of Christ, celebrate his birth, and carry forth his light into the world, let us seek the holy signs of life together!

**December 2**  
"Signs of the Times"  
Luke 21:25-36

**December 16**  
A Service of Lessons and Carols

**December 30**  
"Signs of a New Day"  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

**December 9**  
"Signs Along the Way"  
Luke 3:1-6

**December 23**  
"Signs of Love"  
Luke 1:39-55

**January 6**  
"Signs of Departure"  
Matthew 2:1-12

#### BLUE CHRISTMAS: A Service of Healing and Hope

##### Monday, December 17 | 7 pm in the Ammons-Lolley Commons

The holidays can be a difficult season for those who have experienced loss. While many are celebrating the joys of the season with parties and holiday meals, others among us are grieving the loss of health, relationships, jobs, or the death of a loved one. Even if you have not experienced such a loss, we encourage you to join us as we pray for those who need healing, especially in the midst of holiday celebrations.

#### A MASON JAR ADVENT

Before there was plastic, we preserved summer's bounty in simple mason jars, so that even in the barren days of winter, we could taste God's goodness and foretaste the bounty and harvest to come. This season, we are offering "A Mason Jar Advent," an Advent calendar on tags tucked in a Mason jar. Each tag features an Advent prayer, activity, conversation starter, or social media prompt. As each day unfolds, you simply draw a card - and day by day, week by week, prayer by prayer, action by action, together we count down to that holy night when God slips into the world. Please pick up your family's Mason jar calendar after worship on Sunday or whenever you are at the church house this week. Jars will be located in the hallway outside the Ammons-Lolley Commons. Please use this small token to help add simplicity to your holiday season and help preserve what's truly important.

#### ADVENT STUDIES

##### LONGING AND HOPE: JOURNEYING THROUGH ADVENT WITH THE GOSPELS OF MARK, MATTHEW & LUKE

This Advent, you are invited to participate in a Bible study led by Mary Foskett that examines the human longing and the divine promise that sets the stage for the Gospel stories of Jesus. We will meet in Kelly Auditorium during the Sunday School hour for this churchwide Sunday school opportunity on December 2, 9, and 16.

##### EXPLORING GRIEF IN A SEASON OF HOPE

From Darkness to Light is a three-week devotional study led by Linda Lewis for those interested in exploring the experience of grief in the context of Advent's message of hope. Noontime gatherings in The Commons on December 5, 12, and 19 will provide a safe space to acknowledge feelings of loss during a season when everyone seems to be celebrating. Please RSVP to Amy Cook at [acook@firstonfifth.org](mailto:acook@firstonfifth.org).

**SUNDAY, December 9**

- 9:15 am Churchwide Bible Study (Kelly Auditorium)  
 10:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
 Called Church Conference  
 4:00 pm Holiday Gathering (Kelly Auditorium)

**MONDAY, December 10**

- 5:30 pm House & Grounds Committee Meeting (A-L Commons)  
 5:30 pm Personnel Committee Meeting (Conference Room)

**WEDNESDAY, December 12**

- 12:00 pm From Darkness to Light Advent Study (A-L Commons)  
 3:00 pm Youth Commons Time (A-L Commons)  
 4:00 pm Children & Youth Snack Time (A-L Commons)  
 4:30 pm Youth Handbells (Sanctuary)  
 4:30 pm Children's (3rd-5th) Handbells (Music Suite)  
 5:00 pm Pre-K Music & Missions (Children's Loft)  
 5:00 pm School-Age Music & Missions (Music Suite)  
 5:30 pm First Impressions (A-L Commons)  
 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Meal (Kelly Auditorium)  
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**SUNDAY, December 16**

- 9:15 am Churchwide Bible Study  
 10:30 am Lessons & Carols Service (Sanctuary)  
 Joining Sunday

**SERVING TODAY**

Deacon of the Week.....Paul McCraw, Annice Hogsette  
 Nursery: Babies-Ones .....Gayle Edwards, Donnie Tacy  
 Nursery: Twos-PreK ..... Bob Edwards, Jean Mallard

**WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST**

Our Sunday Morning Worship Service is televised live at 10:30am on Cable Channel 1312 and is streamed live from our website at [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org). Online giving is available at [give.firstonfifth.org](http://give.firstonfifth.org).

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS, JOINING SUNDAY DATES**

All new or prospective members to First Baptist are invited to join in a condensed version of "**First Impressions**" on Wednesday, December 12, to learn more about life at First Baptist. Led by our pastoral staff and sponsored by our Outreach Ministry Team, First Impressions familiarizes newcomers with an in-depth look at First Baptist, including ways in which people can connect with one another, get involved in ministry, and join the church. This First Impressions gathering will be held at 5:30-7:30 pm in the Ammons-Lolley Commons. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by December 10 to Pastor Emily at [ehullmcgee@firstonfifth.org](mailto:ehullmcgee@firstonfifth.org).

Our next "**Joining Sunday**" is planned for Sunday, December 16! We understand that uniting with a family of faith is an important step, and we like to make it a little less intimidating by inviting folks who are at this place in their journey to make that step together. For information, please contact Pastor Emily at [ehullmcgee@firstonfifth.org](mailto:ehullmcgee@firstonfifth.org).

**CELEBRATIONS DURING ADVENT****CHURCHWIDE FAMILY CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP****Sunday, December 9 | 4 pm**

We'll enjoy fun activities, carol singing, good food, and a creative devotional that will test your knowledge of the Christmas story. Please bring a Christmas goodie, salty or sweet—punch will be provided. Come and share some Christmas fun with your church family. We'll meet at 4 pm in Kelly Auditorium.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT BROOKRIDGE****Wednesday, December 19 | 6 pm**

Meet us at Brookridge to visit with our homebound members and share the joy of the season through song. All ages welcome!

**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH****Sunday, December 23 | 9:15 am**

Please join us for a Christmas brunch on Sunday, December 23, at 9:15 am in Kelly Auditorium (no Sunday School that day). We'll provide the breakfast pastries and coffee, so come on and spend some time in fellowship with your church family prior to worship on December 23.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE****Monday, December 24 | 5:00 pm**

Please join us for our Christmas Eve service at 5 pm on Monday, December 24, at 5 pm. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to this warm time of worship as we welcome the Christ-child.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE**

Our sanctuary will be decorated again this year with poinsettias to be displayed December 16 and 23. The price of a poinsettia is \$13 and the order deadline is December 10. Please pick up forms in the church office or download them from our website: [www.firstonfifth.org](http://www.firstonfifth.org).

**YEAR END****CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES**

To be included in your 2018 contribution statement, please be aware of the following deadlines: Hand-delivered contributions must be received in the FBC Finance Office by December 31. Mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than December 31. Stock gifts can be processed through the First Baptist Church brokerage account at Wells Fargo Advisors. Stock gift transactions take several days to complete and with extra year-end activity and holidays it is best to start the process not later than December 19. Please call the FBC Finance Office for details at 336-722-2558 x103.

**NURTURING FAITH SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE**

Starting in the new year, we will no longer be providing members with individual subscriptions of "Nurturing Faith" mailed to their home each month. However, we will order more copies for the church and have them available in the Ammons-Lolley Commons for you to pick up if you would like. If you would like to purchase your own subscription to Nurturing Faith you can do so at <https://www.nurturingfaith.net/subscribe/>.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SAMARITAN MINISTRIES**

For 20 years, FBC has been active in serving the residents in Samaritan Ministries. The next opportunity to help out at Samaritan is coming up January 4. Five volunteers are needed for an overnight stay there on January 4, from 6:30 pm-6:30 am on January 5. Please contact Bob Edwards at 336-768-3063 or [bobedwards4113@gmail.com](mailto:bobedwards4113@gmail.com) for details or to volunteer.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES**

December 24-26 (Christmas holiday)  
 January 1 (New Year's holiday)

**First Baptist Church**

501 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem NC 27101 • 336-722-2558 • [www.firstonfifth.org](http://www.firstonfifth.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Friday 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

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**Rev. Amy McClure**

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