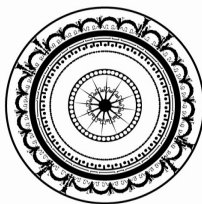


First Baptist Church on Fifth



The Worship of God
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018
10:30am

Organ Voluntary: *Noël* T Dubois

Jacob Hill, Organ

Invitation to Worship Emily Hull McGee

The Prophecy: Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible, Old Testament, p.671) Randy Peters

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Love Gary and Lee Anne Stiffler

(Please read in silence.)

On this Love Sunday, we ache in the dusk of division. We carry the Christ-light into the shadows of busyness, neglect, suffering, death. We wait, actively and persistently, for God's coming light to overwhelm the world. With the ancient words of Micah's promise in our hearts, we light the candle of love, declaring this sign to the world that God's love 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 love re - flect - ed in me.

Choral Introit: *Heaven and Earth Are Ringing* Gastoldi/Hopson

Sanctuary Choir

Heaven and earth are ringing; join in the angel's singing. Sing noel for Christ is born. Shepherds are told the story, soon rush to see the glory; Look the star is shining. Bethlehem town outlining, heaven and earth combining. Sing noel for Christ is born.

*Processional Hymn 102: *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* ANTIOCH

*Passing of the Peace Emily Hull McGee

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Call to Confession: *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* P. Manz

Sanctuary Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming soon. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

Prayer of Confession David Williamson

(Please read in unison.)

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary’s song countless times,
and have marveled at her example of humility and trust,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your story, we resist the cost of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the day when the lowly will be lifted up
and the hungry will be filled with every good thing.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

Words of Assurance David Williamson

Leader: Friends, hear the good news of this season:
the One who has come, is coming, and will come again
brings forgiveness of sin and the promise of new life.
Let us commit ourselves to Christ’s way of hope and peace.

**People: Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more.
We need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be our all.**

*Hymn 148: *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

Pastoral Prayer for Love Amy McClure

Leader: Come quickly, Lord;
People: Our love 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.**

New Testament Lesson: Luke 1:39-55 (Pew Bible, New Testament, p.43) Emily Hull McGee

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

Sermon: “Signs of Love” Emily Hull McGee

*Hymn of Response 107: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

*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 Randy Peters

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Gesu Bambino* P. Yon

Emily Grissing, Cello

*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: *Carillon de Westminster* L. Vierne

Jacob Hill, Organ

**Those who are able will please stand.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acolyte for this service is Ashleigh Henley

“Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love” words by Randy Edwards and Sherry Upshaw, music by Randy Edwards
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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 30

“Signs of a New Day”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

January 6

“Signs of Departure”
Matthew 2:1-12

2018 Poinsettias

Given in Memory of...

John Steven Pepper by Jim and Linda Pepper
Ed and Evelyn Collette by Bob and Gayle Edwards
John Jordan by Bob and Gayle Edwards
Alice and Worth Chandler by Emil and Nancy Nathan
Dr. Peter Nathan by Emil and Nancy Nathan
Arnett Harris by Mary Nell Harris
Al Amos by Doyce and his family
Billie Woody by Donna and Tom Woody
Janice Shearin by Sibyl and David Smelcer
Debbie Shearin Allsbrook by Sibyl and David Smelcer
Blanche S. Allen by Tom Allen
Elizabeth (Beth) Allen by Tom Allen
Frank and Eunice Johnson by Sarah Johnson
John Grogan by Jean Grogan
Murphy Hampton by Betty Hampton
Rick Ryder by Ann and Gene Ryder
Our parents by Beth and Gene Stainback
J. Kenneth Foskett by the Foskett Hudgins family
Anne S. Foskett by the Foskett Hudgins family
Bob Whittle by Jan Whittle
Butch Waller by Jan Whittle
Mr. and Mrs. James Chestnutt by
Mr. and Mrs. John LeDuke and family
Janice J. Sherrill by Gene Sherrill

Given in Honor of...

Liam, Annabelle and Silas McGee by
Josh and Emily Hull McGee
FBC Staff's faithful and excellent leadership
by Josh and Emily Hull McGee
David Williamson by Donna and Tom Woody
Jacob Hill by Donna and Tom Woody
Terry and Ed Grissing and other family members
by Emily R. Grissing
Gary Stiffler by Kim Wilkinson and Cindi Goins
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Edwards by Phronsie Jordan
Christopher and Meredith Smith and family by
Gene Sherrill
David and Carrena Sherrill and family by Gene Sherrill
Barbara Bedwell by Barry and Nancy Robinson
Paul McCraw by Barry and Nancy Robinson
Fran Stewart by Barry and Nancy Robinson
Sanctuary Choir by David Williamson
Handbell Choirs by David Williamson
Jacob Hill by David Williamson

*The large poinsettias that have decorated the Sanctuary during Advent were given
by Ralph and Patricia Messick in loving memory of Amy Messick Paynter.*

SUNDAY, December 23

9:15 am Christmas Brunch (Kelly Auditorium)
10:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, December 24

Church Offices closed
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, December 25 Merry Christmas!

Church Offices closed

WEDNESDAY, December 26

Church Offices closed

SUNDAY, December 30

9:15 am Pastries & Coffee in Kelly-no Bible Study (Kelly Aud.)
10:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Called Church Conference

SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week.....Randy Peters, Linwood Davis
Nursery: Babies-Ones Kim Towles, Ying Xiong
Nursery: Twos-PreK..... John Baxley, Anne Rais

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. Online giving is available at give.firstonfifth.org.

CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE

Due to the winter storm that canceled our worship service and called church conference on December 9, the called church conference has been rescheduled to be held at the end of the worship service on December 30. We will vote on the proposed 2019 Ministry Funding Plan, elect deacons to serve from January 2019-December 2021, and consider a recommendation to grant an easement to Duke Energy for the location and maintenance of a new electrical transformer. The transformer will be located on the Spruce Street side of the property where the Chapel once stood. The Ministry Funding Plan has been endorsed by the deacons and was discussed by the church at a duly called conference on October 3. You may pick up a detailed copy of the plan in the church office. The 8 nominees for deacon have been selected by the Nominating Committee based on nominations received from the congregation in August. Two additional nominees will be filling unexpired terms. The nominees for deacon are as follows:

Nancy Baxley	Nancy Robinson
Joe Bircher	Matt Steen
Ka'thy Gore Chappell	Bob Edwards*
Darlene Guerry	Ralph Messick*
Roper Halverson	*Filling unexpired term
Ray Hawley	

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Monday, December 24 | 5:00 pm

Please join us for our Christmas Eve service 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.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

**Sunday, December 30 | 9:15 am
Kelly Auditorium**

Enjoy some fellowship during Sunday school hour (pastries & coffee provided--no Sunday School) on Sunday, December 30. We will gather in the Sanctuary for worship at 10:30 am.

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.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

We continue to be encouraged by your abundant support of our Capital Campaign! If you would like information on other giving options and/or want to request offering envelopes to use for your campaign gifts, please call the Finance Office - ext 103. On any Capital Campaign gift, please be sure to note that it is for the "Boundless Home campaign" so it is properly allocated.

DEVOTIONAL CLASSICS IN THE COMMONS

Tuesdays, 6:45-7:45am, Commons
Beginning January 8

Our Tuesday morning co-ed small group with Pastor David resumes January 8. We will begin the semester with a study of *How to Pray*, a collection of essays and reflections by C.S. Lewis. For more information or to order a book, please contact David at 722-2558 ext 118 or dwilliamson@firstonfifth.org.

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 for details or to volunteer.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

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

First Baptist Church

Our vision

We are a community in the heart of the city called by Jesus to practice bold love of God and neighbor and boundless compassion for all people

501 West Fifth Street Winston-Salem NC 27101 • 336-722-2558 • www.firstonfifth.org

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

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Ext. 116

Rev. Amy McClure
Associate Pastor
Children, Senior Adults, Pastoral Care
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Rev. David Williamson
Associate Pastor
Worship, Arts, Administration
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