



**FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
HANGING OF THE GREEN**

**Sunday, December 1, 2019 • 10:30 AM**

As you enter for worship, all are encouraged to greet one another and enjoy fellowship with those around you. As the prelude begins, we'll shift into a brief time of quiet reflection, where God uses the stillness of the moment to quiet our souls for what will continue to emerge during our community's worship of the living, loving God.

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY: *Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland", BuxWV 211* ..... D. Buxtehude**  
Jacob Hill, Organ

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP ..... Emily Hull McGee**

**THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 2:1-5 (Pew Bible, OT, p.489) ..... Jerry Bennett**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: The Candle of Hope ..... Patricia Greene**

*As the Christian new year begins, we enter the darkness together. We carry the Christ-light into the shadows of despair, fear, depletion, injustice. We wait, actively and persistently, for God's coming light to overwhelm the world. With the ancient words of Isaiah's promise in our hearts, we light the candle of hope, declaring this sign to the world that God's hope for all creation is at hand!*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* ..... HOUSTON**

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Je - sus.

In him there is no dark-ness at all; the night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

**\*HYMN 79: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** ..... **VENI EMMANUEL**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** ..... **Nikki Byers**

**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 24:36-44 (Pew Bible, NT, p.21)** ..... **Brent Greene**

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ..... **Amy McClure**

Merciful God, always with us, always coming; we do not know how to prepare for your advent. We have lost the capacity to hope for miracles. We have forgotten the promise of your coming reign. We get distracted by the busyness of the season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the wonder of the shepherds, the courage of the magi, the faith of Mary and Joseph. Lead us to Bethlehem, that we might discover again the good news of the gospel, for Jesus' sake, for our sakes, and for the sake of the world. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** ..... **Amy McClure**

**Leader:** Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**PREPARING THE HOUSE** ..... **Emily Hull McGee**

**BLESSING OF THE EVERGREENS** ..... **David Williamson**

May these garlands and wreaths, evergreen and ever-alive, be signs for us of God's unchanging, unending presence in this world. As we encircle our sanctuary with greenery, may they bless all who enter here seeking refuge and belonging with the reminder of hope — hope springing forth and shouting of the coming green again, hope of the eternal, abundant life promised in Christ. Amen.

**CAROL: In the Bleak Mid-winter** ..... **G. Holst**

Sanctuary Choir

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

**BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS** ..... **Augusta Graham**

May these poinsettias, flowers of the holy night, be signs for us of the Bethlehem star that pointed the world to the miracle unfolding in a simple stable. As we fill our sanctuary with their blood-red beauty, may they bless all who see them with a visible witness to the baby who would become the Savior of the world. Amen.

**CAROL: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ..... M. Praetorius**

Sanctuary Choir

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night.

**BLESSING OF THE CANDLES ..... Miriam White**

May these candles, bright flames in this darkest of seasons, be signs for us of the One who is the Light of the World. As we illuminate our sanctuary with special light this Advent, may they bless all whose lives are too often filled with darkness and despair with the blazing light of God's justice, peace, and salvation in Christ. Amen.

**CAROL: *We Shall Light a Thousand Candles* ..... D. Rasbach**

Sanctuary Choir

We shall light a thousand candles, dispelling the night with a glorious morn; We shall sing a thousand carols proclaiming our wonderful Savior is born! Tell it far and tell it near, speak of the love He gave us; every nation needs to hear: "Jesus was born to save us!" We shall light a thousand candles, dispelling the night with a glorious morn; We shall sing a thousand carols proclaiming our wonderful Savior is born! Go into the blinding night, sing of this great salvation. Take the glorious Gospel light to every tongue and nation. We shall light a thousand candles, dispelling the night with a glorious morn; We shall sing a thousand carols proclaiming our wonderful Savior is born!

**BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY ..... Nikki Byers**

May this nativity, symbols of that moment when Love became flesh, be signs for us of God's bold dream for this world made real in the most simple of spaces, the most humble of people, the most ordinary of ways. As we place these familiar pieces in our sanctuary, may they bless us anew with the wonder of the manger and the One in whom we are known and loved. Amen.

**\*HYMN 85: *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming* ..... PLEADING SAVIOR**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE ..... Emily Hull McGee**

Leader: Come quickly, Lord;

People: **You fill the world with hope.**

**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.

**SERMON: "*Global Good: For the Sake of the Nations*" ..... Emily Hull McGee**

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 83: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ..... HYFRYDOL**

*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 ..... Jerry Bennett**

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY: *What Child Is This?* ..... arr. D. Hakes**

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

**\*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: *Noëls pour orgue, XII. Noël Suisse* ..... L-C. Daquin**

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

**BENEVOLENCE FUND**

At the conclusion of the worship service today you will be given an opportunity to contribute to the Benevolence Fund. This fund provides confidential financial assistance for individuals in times of crisis and is made possible by designated contributions. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to First Baptist Church, designated to the Benevolence Fund.

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