



**FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 22, 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: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645* J.S. Bach
Jacob Hill, Organ

INVITATION TO WORSHIP Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 35:1-10 (Pew Bible, OT, p.513) Linda Lewis

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *The Candle of Love* Mitch and Amy Cook
(Please read silently)

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 Isaiah'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: *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.

CHORAL INTROIT: *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* arr. C. Wood

Sanctuary Choir

Ding! Dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing; Ding! Dong! Verily the sky is riven with angel singing. Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers! May you beautifully rime your eve-time song, ye singers! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

***HYMN 102: *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*..... ANTIOCH**

PASSING OF THE PEACE Brent Greene

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible, NT, p.1) Paul Baxley

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* D. Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood. From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood. This day they gripped not tool of steel, they drove no iron nail. But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail. When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame, and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name, the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height, and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light. "This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne, but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone." The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard, and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word. The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift. Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today, but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Nikki Byers

(Please read in unison.)

Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our reluctance to forgive.
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow boldly in your way.
In this Advent season, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon,
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Nikki Byers

Leader: People of God, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whose coming we announce in this holy season,
is our righteousness and our peace.
Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***HYMN 114: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Amy McClure

Leader: Come quickly, Lord;

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

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 One*" Emily Hull McGee

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 124: *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL**

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 David Matthews**

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Advent Hope* 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.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF STEVE HAIRSTON

***BENEDICTION Emily Hull McGee**

POSTLUDE: *VI. Noel* L-C. Daquin

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The acolyte for this service is Kate Parker

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" words and music by Kathleen Thomerson
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study
10:30 am Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
11:30 am Reception honoring Steve Hairston
(*Ammons-Lolley Commons*)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

5:00 pm Children, Youth, Families & Prayer Partners
to Tanglewood Lights (*offsite*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

Church office closed
5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (*Sanctuary*)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 Merry Christmas!

Church office closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church office closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 am Churchwide Breakfast (*Kelly Auditorium*)
10:30 am Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
4:30 pm Youth serve at SECU House (*offsite*)
6:00 pm Youth Game Night (*offsite*)

SERVING TODAY

Deacons of the Week: David Matthews, Darlene Guerry
Nursery Babies-Ones: Anna Harris
Nursery Twos-Pre-K: Kara Thompson

CURRENT DONATION NEEDS

Please place donations in designated donation bins in the
1st floor hallway outside of Kelly Auditorium.
Samaritan Ministries: Sugar, dried pasta
Crisis Control: Saltine crackers

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST

Our Sunday Morning Worship Service is streamed live from
our website at firstonfifth.org.
Online giving is available at give.firstonfifth.org.

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.

PASTORAL STAFF

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