



“To be on guard against some spectacular, sky-breaking day, date unknown, leaves me feeling anxious and unprepared. To know that he comes unexpectedly every day changes my life. Now each situation, each place, each person is where Jesus is apt to appear. Life becomes less of a threat, and more of an adventure. Jesus showing up again — maybe today! — becomes the expectation that he will, no doubt, show up today. Will I notice him, again again? Will I be ready?”

+ Courtney Allen Crump

*The Ten Virgins, Jorge Cocco Santángelo*

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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, November 12, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: Priere

Jacob Hill, Organ

C. Phillips

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CHORAL INTROIT: *The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

G. Root

Sanctuary Choir

The Lord is in his holy temple;  
let all the earth keep silence before him.

THE MINISTRY OF SILENCE

CONGREGATIONAL INVOCATION

David Williamson

*(Please read in unison.)*

**Great and loving God,  
we come before you emptied of all that would distract,  
seeking all that would redeem.  
Let these moments not become so routine as to be predictable,  
nor so familiar as to be conventional.  
Prepare us for the unexpected.  
Open us to the movement of your Spirit within us and among us.  
We desire to worship you from the very depths of our heart. Amen.**

\*HYMN 22: *How Great Our God's Majestic Name*

DUKE STREET

TENDING OUR STORIES

Bethany Leggett

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy McClure

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 25:1-13

Carlos Mir

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: *Keep Your Lamps*

arr. A. Thomas

Sanctuary Choir

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Zack Jackson

Leader: We cannot come before God unless we are first  
honest with ourselves about who we are,  
about the mistakes we make,  
and about how well or poorly we care for others.  
In this spirit, let us offer our confession to God.

**All: Compassionate God,  
you have called us to do justice,  
to love kindness and to walk humbly.  
Forgive us for our weariness,  
for our lukewarm compassion,  
for our lack of urgency to share the good news  
of your ever-expanding kingdom.  
In every season, let us be  
ready to give as we have received,  
ready to forgive as we have been forgiven,  
ready to love as we have been loved. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Zack Jackson

Leader: This is God's word of grace for you:  
we are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Such good news of forgiveness is the foundation  
of the peace we experience in Christ;  
and it is our joy to share that peace  
with both friend and stranger:  
May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.)*

**SERMON: “Intending to Be Ready”**

**Emily Hull McGee**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 490: *Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated***

**HENDON**

*God calls all to respond! Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front and share your commitment with one of our ministers.*

**\*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE**

**Lynn Rhoades**

*The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship of which all are invited to participate. In a moment, Deacons will pass the offering plates for you to share your financial contribution to support the ministries of First Baptist Church. If you would like to give online, you will find additional information in this worship guide and at our website, [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org).*

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Amy McClure**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God all creatures here below!  
O praise God! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Emily Hull McGee**

**POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude**

**H. Willan**

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Invocation is reprinted from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, ©2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

## SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week: Lynn Rhodes and Carlos Mir  
Children & Families Greeter: Kim Wilkinson  
Streaming and Sound Team: Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder,  
Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Amber Myers

## IF YOU ARE NEW, WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us today for the first time, we welcome you! Please fill out a Connection Card located in the back of the pews, and give it to a minister or drop into the offering plate after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply with our church. If you're visiting with young children, we welcome them in whatever way is best for your family! Creative resources for our little ones guide their experience of worship in the Sanctuary, and worship care for infants through pre-K is available in the nursery on the first floor. Masking is optional in the Sanctuary. The balcony continues to be reserved for those preferring an even greater distance. Extra masks and hand sanitizer are available at all three entrances to the sanctuary. We're glad you're here!

## HOW WE SUSTAIN MINISTRY THROUGH FBC

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today to God's work of Love through First on Fifth, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates upon your exit from the room, or by scanning the QR code to give online. Because you will need to enter your personal financial information when registering online, we encourage you to set up your account on a secure network at home before using the app for the first time.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Zack Jackson's Ordination | Today, 4:30pm**

With joyful affirmation from the Deacons, Ordination Council, and congregation, all are invited to gather for Zack Jackson's ordination to the gospel ministry this afternoon at 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

### **From Judgment to Compassion: The Church and Mental Health | November 15 & 29, 12:00 pm**

Church member Anna Harris is leading group discussions focused on the relationship between Christianity and mental health. We'll explore topics including the stigma surrounding mental health problems, varying Christian views and messages on mental health, the church's potential as a place for mental and emotional healing, and spiritual practices as self-care. All are welcome!

### **"Attending Church" Commitments**

If you haven't yet returned your "Attending Church" commitments to the church, all are encouraged to do so! This effort is intended to reach every active member and friend with the invitation to bring God's dream for our church to life in 2024. Cards are available to pick up, and an online form is in the newsletter.

### **Called Church Conference | November 19**

Upon the conclusion of worship on November 19, the church will vote on the 2024 Ministry Funding Plan as recommended by the Ministry Funding subcommittee and Deacons and as presented and discussed at the conference on October 17 and shared in the newsletter. You may pick up a copy of the details in the office.

### **Seeking Donations | Crisis Control**

The gifts for November are sugar, flour, and baking items. Please drop off donations in the first-floor bins.



501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | [firstonfifth.org](http://firstonfifth.org)

**BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.**



FIRST BAPTIST  
ON FIFTH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **To Dwell Among Us: Advent at First on Fifth**

God's promise to dwell among us in Jesus is a promise to tend: tending creation, tending humanity, tending our relationships, tending our fears, tending our loneliness, tending our presence in all time and space. God's dwelling place among us is a gift in every season, and Advent in particular! Further details about each event are in our newsletter. Plan to join us!

### **Sanctuary Poinsettias**

If you would like to give a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please pick up a form on the table across from the Ammons-Lolley Commons and return it to the church office with payment by today, December 3. The cost is \$15 per poinsettia.

**November 28 | Decorating the Church House, 9:00am.** Contact David with questions!

### **December 2 | Women's Holiday Fellowship, 2-4pm**

Join us for an ornament exchange for the holidays! We will meet in the Commons to share some snacks, fellowship, and gifts. Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for the exchange and a sweet or savory snack to share. Register in the newsletter, and contact Holly Kessler with questions!

### **December 3 | Hanging of the Green**

This morning in worship, we'll hang the greens in the Sanctuary and conclude our morning together by creating Advent kits for use at home.

### **December 6 & 13 | More than a Season: Advent and the Christian Life, 12:00pm**

What does Advent mean in a world whose suffering seems never ending? As we enter the liturgical season of Advent, some will feel the joyous anticipation of Christmas, others may feel unsettled by all the pain this hurting world is facing, and many will feel both at exactly the same time. The Gospel understands this paradox of pain and promise, the very reality to which Advent bears witness. Mary Foskett will lead two Wednesday noontime sessions focused on this dimension of Advent. Bring lunch if you'd like, and join us as we reflect on the meaning of Advent and how it can help us understand the Christian life.

### **December 10 | *St. Francis Tells the Christmas Story* Children's Advent Musical, 4:00pm**

The first nativity scene was enacted by St. Francis of Assisi to remind the people of the Savior's humble birth in a time when Christmas celebrations centered on the materialistic. Come join our children as they enact this delightful musical featuring St. Francis, his friends and the animals in this telling of the Christmas story! A dessert and coffee reception will follow.

### **December 16 | Christmas Open House, 4-6pm**

All are welcome to share in the merriment and fellowship of the season at our Churchwide Christmas Open House! Hosted by the Hulls and McGees at David and Jane Hull's home (1565 Audubon Village Dr.), we have a spot for everyone to enjoy our beloved community's company and the joy of Christmas.

### **December 17 | Service of Lessons & Carols**

The Sanctuary will fill with song and joy in morning worship, as our Sanctuary choir and guest orchestra proclaim the story of Jesus through our beloved Service of Lessons & Carols.

### **December 17 | Tanglewood Lights, 5:00pm**

We invite people of all ages to join us on a wagon ride with your First on Fifth family as we travel through Tanglewood for the Festival of Lights. Cost is \$5/person. Spaces are limited to the first 75 people to sign up, so don't miss your chance - sign up in the newsletter today! Contact Amy with questions.

### **December 20 | Caroling at Brookridge, 4:00pm**

Please join us as we sing and celebrate with our friends at Brookridge Retirement Home. Come ready to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols!

### **December 21 | Longest Night Worship, 6:00pm**

All are invited to mark the Longest Night with a quiet and reflective time of worship, particularly intended for those grappling with grief and loss this season.

### **December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship | 5:00pm**

*To Dwell Among Us: For Good News of Great Joy*  
Our annual Christmas Eve service for all ages combines communion, candlelight, and carols to orient us toward the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, November 12

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:15 am First Impressions
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, and Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 2:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)
- 3:00 pm Advent Musical Rehearsal
- 4:30 pm Zack Jackson Ordination Service

MONDAY, November 13

- 5:30 pm House and Grounds Committee
- 5:30 pm Personnel Committee

TUESDAY, November 14

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics
- 10:00 am Older Adult Brunch
- 4:00 pm Finance Committee
- 7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, November 15

- 10:30 am Staff meeting (*Commons*)
- 12:00 pm The Church & Mental Health (*Baraca*)
- 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, November 16

- 10:00 am Older Adult Book Study/Fellowship (*online*)
- 11:00 am Older Adult Team Meeting (*online*)
- 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting
- 8:00 pm Third Thursday Online Gathering

FRIDAY, November 17

- 6:00 pm Young Adult Gathering

SATURDAY, November 18

SUNDAY, November 19

- 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
- 9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, and Children (*in person*)
- 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
- 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
- 12:00 pm Youth Group/Parents Gathering
- 2:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)
- 3:00 pm Advent Musical Rehearsal

## CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour  
*Accounting Manager*  
sally@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1103

Jacob Hill  
*Music Associate / Organist*  
jake@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1004

Zack Jackson  
*Pastoral Resident*  
zack@firstonfifth.org

Rev. Amy McClure  
*Associate Pastor*  
Children, Senior Adults, Pastoral Care  
amy@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1002

Rev. Emily Hull McGee  
*Pastor*  
emily@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1001

Rev. David Williamson  
*Associate Pastor*  
Worship, Arts, Administration  
david@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1003

Olena Withrow  
*Ministry Assistant*  
olena@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1000

John Young  
*Facilities Manager*  
john@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1102

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Friday, 8:30am - 12:30pm