

“Advent comes, relentlessly and throughout life, with its words of hope and faith -- shepherds and magi, crib and star, emmanuel and glory -- and stirs our hearts to pinnacles of possibility one more time... The real Christmas gift, for which Advent is the process, is learning to hum hope, learning to dance the divine.”

+ Joan Chittister



*Prepare the Way*, Lisle Gwyn Garrity

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## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Sunday, December 10, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Carol Medley*

arr. M. Ryan

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 40:1-11

Rob Norwood

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *Candle of Peace*

Terry and Karen Lefler

*(Please read silently.)*

On this Peace Sunday, we carry the Christ-light into the shadows of violence, anger, instability. We wait, actively and persistently, for God's coming light to overwhelm the world. With the ancient words of Isaiah's promise dwelling 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.

RESPONSE: *Christ, Be Our Light*

B. Farrell

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

\*HYMN 86: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

JEFFERSON

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8

John Baxley

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION: *How Dark the Night*

arr. M. Ijames

Sanctuary Choir

How dark the night in Bethlehem where travelers sought for rest; how crude the cave they sheltered in while sheep and oxen slept. Then light shone forth into the world, dispelling sin and strife. The Child born to a virgin girl was Christ, the Light of Life. How dark the night o'er pastures bleak where shepherds kept their watch; how cold the wind which stole their sleep and chilled their weary flock. Then glory pierced the midnight sky, and turned fatigue to fright; "The King is born," the angel cried to hail the birth of Light. How dark the night of fallen souls, by sin and guilt oppressed; How hopeless our unspoken woe, asleep but not at rest; Till Christ breaks through our moral night and melts the heart of stone; "All praise to God in heaven's height and peace to men below." How dark the night that shrouds the world where war and anguish reign; how fierce our swords, how sharp our words, how piercing is our pain. O Christ return like blazing dawn — the Morning Star of Light. The Lord Himself will be our Sun, and day eclipse the night.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Zack Jackson

Leader: God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

**All: Faithful God, how dark is our night; how faithless are our lives.  
We suffer from impatience, anger, and greed;  
we have not lived at peace with one another,  
and have contributed knowingly and unknowingly to the violence of this world.  
Forgive us, O God, and baptize us with your Holy Spirit that we might live  
as worthy ambassadors of your peaceable kingdom. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amy McClure

Leader: Friends, by the mercy of the Prince of Peace our sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.  
May God strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: Let us extend Christ's reign of peace to all those around us with these words:  
May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

INTERLUDE: *What Child Is This?*

arr. D. Hakes

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Steve Loftis

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,  
**All: You are our peace.**

## 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: "To Dwell Among Us: For the Way"

Emily Hull McGee

## \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 96: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

*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

Kelly King

*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

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures  
here — be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

\*BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: XII. *Noel Suisse*

L.C. Daquin

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Christ Be Our Light” words and music by Bernadette Farrell, ©1994 Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications, Used by permission, OneLicense #A-720038

### SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week:

Kelly King and John Baxley

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 – kindergarten 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 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.



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 gift in every season, and Advent in particular! Join us!

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

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 12 | Older Adult Fellowship, 11:30am**

Please join us for our Christmas lunch in Kelly Auditorium as we enjoy a nice meal, sing Christmas Carols with David Williamson leading us on piano, and even getting a surprise from your older adult ministry team. Questions? See Amy!

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

The Gospel understands the paradox of pain and promise, of which Advent bears witness. Bring lunch if you'd like, and join Mary Foskett for the final Wednesday noontime sessions focused on this dimension of Advent.

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

All are welcome to share in the joy 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 this Christmas.

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

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

**December 17 | Pop-Up Market, 12:00pm**

Complete your Christmas shopping with crafts from Amani Sasa and brand new "church merch" of all kinds! We'll have 2023 First on Fifth keepsake Christmas ornaments, coffee mugs, t-shirts of all sizes, and cozy items for winter.

**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 sign up today!

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

Please join us as we sing favorite Christmas carols and celebrate with our friends at Brookridge Retirement Home.

**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**

Our annual Christmas Eve service for all ages combines communion, candlelight, and carols to orient us toward the birth of Jesus.

**December 31 | Christmastide Brunch, 9:30am**

We gather the Sunday after Christmas and enjoy a church brunch during the Sunday School hour.

**Year-End Contributions**

Thank you so much for supporting the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! As we approach the end of 2023, please know that in order for your gifts to be included in your 2023 contribution statement, note these deadlines:

- Hand-delivered contributions must be received by 10:00 am on 12/29 or included in the offering at church on 12/31.
- Mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than 12/31. (Please be aware that your bank's bill pay vendor may batch checks together for mailing, so it's advisable to avoid waiting late in the month for a December contribution.)
- Stock transfers can be processed through the FBC brokerage account at Wells Fargo Advisors. To ensure processing can be completed by 12/29, plan to start the process not later than 12/18 and notify Sally ([sally@firstonfifth.org](mailto:sally@firstonfifth.org)) when your transaction has been initiated.

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through First Baptist on Fifth!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 10

- 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 Missions Committee Meeting (*Baraca*)
- 4:00 pm Advent Musical Performance (*Kelly*)

MONDAY, December 11

- 6:00 pm Personnel Committee (*Conference Rm*)

TUESDAY, December 12

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics Book Study (*Baraca*)
- 11:30 am Older Adult Christmas Lunch (*Kelly*)
- 5:45 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting (*online*)
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 13

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting (*Commons*)
- 12:00 pm Advent Adult Study (*Commons*)
- 5:30 pm Handbell Choir (*Sanctuary*)
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir (*Sanctuary*)

THURSDAY, December 14

- 10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (*online*)
- 11:00 am Older Adult Team Meeting (*online*)

FRIDAY, December 15

SATURDAY, December 16

- 10:00 am Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
- 4:00 pm Church-wide Open House  
(*Home of David and Jane Hull*)

SUNDAY, December 17

- 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*)
- 5:00 pm Tanglewood Lights (*Offsite*)

## CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour  
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## OFFICE HOURS

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



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