

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!”

+ Hamilton Wright Mabie



Contours of Mary's Dream, Lauren Wright Pittman

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 24, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV. 645*

J.S. Bach

Jacob Hill, Organ

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 52:7-10

Jim Nelson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Love

The Loftis Family
Steve, Lee, Matthew, and Colin

(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, and suffering. With the ancient prophecy of Isaiah 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.

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.

CHORAL INTROIT: *Heaven and Earth Are Ringing*

G. Gastoldi/arr. H. Hopson

Sanctuary Choir

Heaven and earth are ringing; join in the angel's singing. Sing noel for Christ is born; come, 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; come, sing noel for Christ is born.

*HYMN 124: *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1: 39-56

Ash Henley

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amy McClure

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from Mary's generation even to our own.

All: Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.

We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.

Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amy McClure

Leader: God's faithfulness is revealed in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, magnify the Lord; for through the gift of Jesus we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us share the sign of peace 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.)

ANTHEM: *Joy to the World, Noel!*

T. Fettke

Sanctuary Choir

Joy to the world! Noel! Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing. Joy to the world! Noel! Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy. Joy to the world! Noel! He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love. Joy to the world! Noel!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Williamson

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,

All: **You are 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: "To Dwell Among Us: For Fulfillment"

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 140: *Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us*

HARLAN

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

Kim Wilkinson

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.

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: *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

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

The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, ©2014.

SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week:

Kim Wilkinson and Jim Nelson

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

BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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. If you have a stock gift to donate, please call (336.722.2558) or email Sally (sally@firstonfifth.org) in the Finance Office.

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

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for December are canned mixed vegetables. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

Seeking Donations | Samaritan Ministries

Support our youth group in their collections for the Samaritan Ministries Penny Campaign! Jars are located around the building for your loose change.

Church Holiday Hours

Our pastoral staff will be enjoying some time off this week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Sally Barbour will be in the church finance office during the week (Tuesday through Friday) to receive year-end contributions, and we encourage you to call 336.722.2558 or email (sally@firstonfifth.org) ahead of time to let her know that you are coming by. Ministers will rotate an on-call system throughout the week as needs arise. Thank you for your support of the staff of First on Fifth!

We Have a New Website!

After big dreams and 14 months of focused work by an incredible team of staff, volunteers, and the tireless creators at M Creative, we are overjoyed to launch First Baptist on Fifth's new website into the world! A virtual front door to our community, it is stacked with opportunities for you to engage with our beloved community and catch a glimpse into the people right at the heart of First on Fifth. Peruse past sermons and blogs, search for classes and events by your particular interests, and tell us more about how you want to find your place! Please note that the members-only section of the site will become available early next year; stay tuned for more! We hope this site becomes a true reflection of our church's vision to be "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."

Save these Dates in the New Year!

January 7 – Epiphany Sunday
January 28 – Deacon Ordination and Installation
February 4 – First Impressions
February 14 – Ash Wednesday
March 24 – Palm Sunday
March 28 – Maundy Thursday
March 29 – Good Friday Tenebrae
March 31 – Easter Sunday

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 24

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

MONDAY, December 25

Christmas Day- Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, December 26

Church Offices Closed
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 27

Church Offices Closed

THURSDAY, December 28

10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (*online*)

FRIDAY, December 29

SATURDAY, December 30

SUNDAY, December 31

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
9:30 am Churchwide Brunch (*Kelly*)
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Rev. 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



501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | firstonfifth.org
BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.