

“The season of Advent is an opportunity both to discover the nature of our enfeebled waiting muscles as well as our tired practices of anticipation and to discipline our hearts and minds, bodies and lives so that we might become, together, a people who wait with hope, who anticipate with faith, and who welcome the arrival of the Lord with courage in our hearts.”

— W. David O. Taylor

Tear Open the Heavens, Lauren Wright Pittman



First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HANGING OF THE GREEN

Sunday, December 3, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Canzona per Sonare No. 4*

G. Gabrieli

Ardmore Brass

Luke Boudrealt, Trumpet

Steve Sutton, Trumpet

Seth Frack, Trombone

Sean Devlin, Trombone

Brent Harvey, Tuba

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 64:1-9

Richard Downs

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Hope

Bethany Leggett

(Please read silently.)

As the Christian new year begins, we carry the Christ-light into the shadows of despair, fear, depletion, and 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 and with the encouragement of our ancestors in all the generations before us and our descendants behind us, we light the candle of hope, declaring this sign to the world that God's hope for all creation is at hand!

RESPONSE: *Christ, Be Our Light*

B. Farrell

Cyrus Bush, Soloist

Solo:

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Congregation:

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.

*HYMN 79: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Zack Jackson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PREPARING THE HOUSE

Emily Hull McGee

BLESSING OF THE EVERGREENS

Joani Hughes

(Please read in unison.)

**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 Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CAROL: *Advent Hope*

D. Hakes

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS

Mary Foskett

(Please read in unison.)

**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/arr. Frack

Ardmore Brass

BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Wally Cox

(Please read in unison.)

**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: *The Holly and the Ivy*

arr. V. Stephenson

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

Minerva Fox

(Please read in unison.)

**May this nativity,
symbol of that moment when Love became flesh,
be a sign 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.**

Sanctuary Choir
Ardmore Brass

**Congregation: Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

Choir: Come, O Sovereign Prince of Heaven; come, O wondrous Love Divine.
Earth and heaven bow before Thee, Everlasting Peace sublime.
O Thou Source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek Thy face.
At Thy manger grant us mercy, in thine Advent grant us grace.

**Congregation: Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy McClure

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

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:24-37

Kim Wilkinson

Leader: This is the word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "To Dwell Among Us: For Nearness"

Emily Hull McGee

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 85: *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

PLEADING SAVIOR

*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**

Sheree Jones

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

Emily Hull McGee

***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: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

arr. J. Anderson

Ardmore Brass

*Those who are able will please stand.

BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Sheree Jones
<u>Children & Families Greeter:</u>	Kim Wilkinson
<u>Streaming and Sound Team:</u>	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 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.



TO DWELL AMONG US: ADVENT PREACHING SERIES

December 10 | Advent 2 | PEACE

To Dwell Among Us: For the Way
Mark 1:1-8 and Isaiah 40:1-11

December 17 | Advent 3 | JOY

Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24 | Advent 4 | LOVE

To Dwell Among Us: For Fulfillment
Luke 1:39-56 and Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

December 24 | Christmas Eve | 5:00pm

To Dwell Among Us: For Good News of Great Joy
Luke 2:1-20 and Isaiah 9:2-7



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!

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.

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

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!

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 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. Sign up in the newsletter!

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 | 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. Come and enjoy!

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, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 3

- 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 Deacons Meeting
- 3:00 pm Advent Musical Rehearsal
- 3:00 pm Messiah Performance (*R.J. Reynolds Auditorium*)

MONDAY, December 4

TUESDAY, December 5

- 7:30 am Devotional Classics Book Study (*online*)
- 10:00 am Care Notes Ministry
- 3:00 pm Funeral for Fran Stewart
- 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 6

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

THURSDAY, December 7

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

FRIDAY, December 8

SATURDAY, December 9

- 9:30 am Advent Musical Dress Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party

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
- 4:00 pm Advent Musical Performance

CHURCH STAFF

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OFFICE HOURS

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



FIRST BAPTIST
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