

I know that I have life
only insofar as I have love.

I have no love
except it come from Thee.

Help me, please, to carry
this candle against the wind.

+ Wendell Berry

Center Christ, Lauren Wright Pittman



First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 31, 2023 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Chorale Prelude on 'Den die Hirten lobten sehre'*
Jacob Hill, Organ

H. Walcha

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Steve Smith

Leader: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**All: For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.**

Leader: For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

**All: The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

ANTIOCH

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-40

Jill Knight

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheree Jones

Leader: Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world,
yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another
that we may receive release from every sin.

**All: Saving God,
Anna and Simeon sang your praise
and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all
who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
We come this day seeking forgiveness
and redemption from all that hinders us
from receiving the Christ Child fully into our lives.
Please forgive us, restore us, and redeem us,
that we might joyfully bear witness to your promise fulfilled. Amen.**

SOLO: *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

R. MacGimsey

Emily Hull McGee

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little Holy
Child, didn't know who You was. Didn't know You'd come to save us, Lord, to
take our sins away. Our eyes was blind; we couldn't see. We didn't know who You
was. Long time ago You was born, born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus Boy.
The world treat You mean, Lord; treat me mean, too. But please, Sir, forgive us,
Lord. We didn't know 'twas You.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Kim Wilkinson

Leader: With Simeon we pray:
Master, now dismiss us in your peace,
according to your word;
for our eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.

In the name 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.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Emily Hull McGee

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: "The End is Only the Beginning"

Mallory Challis

HYMN OF RESPONSE 148: *What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

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**

Wally Cox

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**

THE FIRST NOWELL

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood our life hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

***BENEDICTION**

Emily Hull McGee

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

POSTLUDE: Noel Etranger

L.C. Daquin

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“The Work of Christmas” was written by Howard Thurman.

SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week:

Wally Cox and Lynn Rhoades

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

Gratitude for a Meaningful Advent

Deepest thanks to the many volunteers whose contributions within our beloved community made our shared experience of Advent all the more meaningful! Thank you to all who decorated the church house, who filled and placed luminaries and candles for Christmas Eve, who ran the sound and cameras, who sang in the choir and played in the orchestra, who lit the Advent candles, who organized all the gatherings throughout December, who read scripture and offered prayers, who hosted Christmas parties and delivered poinsettias, who staffed receptions and pop-up markets, who served as greeters and communion servers, and to all who by your presence, lifted our Spirit and spirits this Advent season. Deep gratitude to you all!

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 included in the offering this morning.
- Mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than 12/ 31.

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

First Impressions | February 4, 9:15 AM

All new or prospective members to First Baptist are invited to join in our First Impressions class. First Impressions familiarizes newcomers with an in-depth look at First Baptist, including ways in which people can connect, get involved in ministry, and join the church. This First Impressions gathering will be hosted by the New Member Ministry Team and held on February 4 from 9:15-10:30 AM in the Commons. Please RSVP to Zack at zack@firstonfifth.org!

Church House Updates

After weeks of disruption, it is a delight to share that all mold remediation has been completed in our building! Each space was tested again after the remediation cleaning had been completed, and all the testing indicated spaces now ready to be occupied again. Thanks to all whose flexibility and adaptability made this work possible!

Seeking Donations | Women's Trip to the DR

Throughout the month of January, the folks going on the Women's Trip to the Dominican Republic are collecting sample sized soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, wash cloths, reading glasses, small stuffed animals and packaged Neosporin. This collection box is on top of the first floor bins. Thank you for your support!

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for January are canned stews (beef stew, Brunswick, chili, etc.). Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

Save these Dates in the New Year!

January 1 – Church offices closed
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 31

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
9:30 am Churchwide Brunch (*Kelly Auditorium*)
10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)

MONDAY, January 1
Church offices closed

TUESDAY, January 2
10:00 am Care Notes (*Commons*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, January 3
12:00 pm Communications/Outreach Team

THURSDAY, January 4
10:00 am Older Adult Fellowship (*online*)

FRIDAY, January 5
1:00 pm Funeral Service for Linda Newsome
(*Sanctuary*)

SATURDAY, January 6

SUNDAY, January 7
9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (*online*)
9:30 am Sunday Bible Study Adults, Youth, &
Children (*in person*)
10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
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
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Rev. Zack Jackson
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Rev. Amy McClure
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Children, Senior Adults, Pastoral Care
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Rev. Emily Hull McGee
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