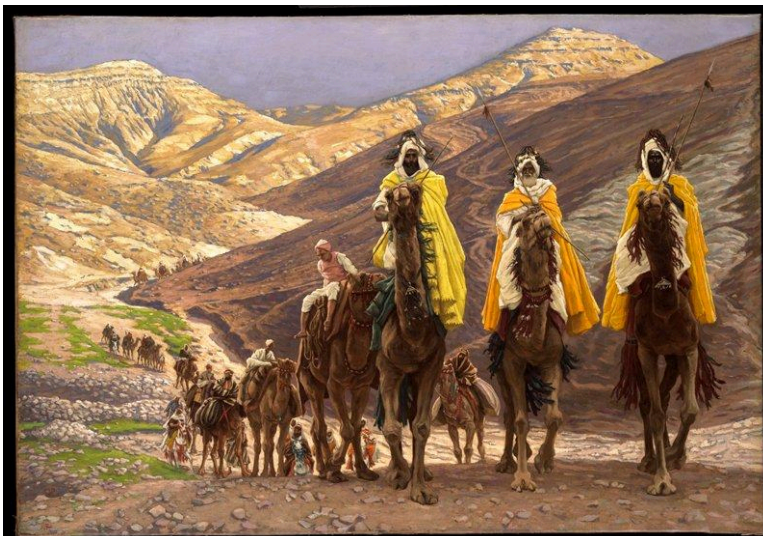


“If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things, if we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill every moment of our lives with action, when will we have time to make the long, slow journey across the desert as did the Magi? Or sit and watch the stars as did the Shepherds? Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary? For each one of us there is a desert to travel, a star to discover, and a being within ourselves to bring to life.”

+ Author unknown

Journey of the Magi, James Tissot



First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Sunday, January 7, 2024 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Christum wir sollen loben schon*, BWV. 611

J.S. Bach

Jacob Hill, Organ

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 60:1-6

Matt Steen

*HYMN 154: *Christ Is the World's Light*

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Amy McClure

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

Carol Wilkinson

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sam Lawrence

**God of endless love, you sent a star to enlighten the wise,
Yet we prefer to stay cloaked in ignorance's shadows.
You sent a child to topple the tyrant,
Yet we insist on the things which keep our power and position intact.
You sent the seekers to find Love made flesh,
Yet we get stuck and stay put in the familiar grooves of our lives.**

**Forgive us, good God of light.
Make us wise enough to seek you among the least of your children,
wise enough to set out on a journey home by another way,
wise enough to trade our treasure for the gift of overwhelming joy.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sam Lawrence

Leader: Siblings in Christ, hear this good news:
God who came close in Jesus
forgives us of all we have done and all we have left undone.
Resting in God's goodness and grace, we begin again!

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Arise, Shine Your Light Has Come*

M. McDonald

Sanctuary Choir

Arise, shine, your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord is with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Richard Groves

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 Light We Follow"*

Emily Hull McGee

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION & SHARING OF STAR WORDS

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 145: *Star-Child*

STAR-CHILD

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

Chris Gambill

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 on our website, firstonfifth.org.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Amy McClure

CELEBRATION OF JAKE HILL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Roper Halverson

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: *Fanfare on "In dulci jubilo"*

P. Fey

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Prayer of Confession was inspired by the Prayer for Epiphany from the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

SERVING TODAY

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Chris Gambill and Carol Wilkinson
<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 after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply within the life of 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 kindergarteners is available in the nursery on the first floor. The balcony continues to be reserved for those preferring extra distance. We're so glad you're here!

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK OF LOVE THROUGH FIRST BAPTIST ON FIFTH

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates or by scanning the QR code to give online.





FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tender Care: Winter Worship at First on Fifth

If the culture around us has its way, the new year comes at us hard and fast. Its messages are clear: *New year, new you! Get organized! Go to the gym! Start a new hobby! Do the thing!* Yet in Epiphany's light of the star, God invites us to remain "in thy tender care," as the Christmas carols remind us. This winter in worship, we'll listen to the Gospel of Mark and Jesus revealed at its beginning, a Jesus full of tender care: receiving, extending, inviting, and honoring. In stories of baptism and calling, of healing and living, we'll honor this gentle summons to be tended by the God who calls us beloved.

January 14

Tender Care: Living Under Water
Mark 1:4-11

January 21

Tender Care: Fishing for People
Mark 1:14-20
Amy McClure, proclaimer

January 28

Tender Care: A Spiritual Detox
Mark 1:21-28
Deacon Ordination & Installation

February 4

Tender Care: Keeping Time
Mark 1:29-39

February 11

Tender Care: Bringing It Down the Mountain
Mark 9:2-9

Celebrating Jake Hill's 10 Years Among Us

Today in worship, we honor and celebrate Jake Hill, Organist and Music Associate, for his 10 years of ministry with First Baptist on Fifth! Jake has served our church and its mission with such integrity and excellence, and we are all so deeply grateful for his leadership! Please offer Jake your congratulations on this big anniversary!

Deacon Ordination & Installation | January 28

This Sunday in worship, we joyfully install and ordain eight new Deacons to the work of servant leadership in our church. The Deacons extend care and connection with our members and cultivate the spiritual well-being of the church.

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!

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 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, 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*)

MONDAY, January 8

5:30 pm House and Grounds
6:00 pm Personnel Committee (*Conference Rm*)

TUESDAY, January 9

8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, January 10

10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 11

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

FRIDAY, January 12

SATURDAY, January 13

SUNDAY, January 14

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
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Jacob Hill
Music Associate / Organist
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Rev. Zack Jackson
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Rev. Amy McClure
Associate Pastor
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Rev. Emily Hull McGee
Pastor
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Rev. David Williamson
Associate Pastor
Worship, Arts, Administration
david@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1003

Olena Withrow
Ministry Assistant
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John Young
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FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

501 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem NC 27101 | 336.722.2558 | firstonfifth.org

BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.