



Awake to Wonder, Lisle Gwynn Garrity

“There is a reason the sky gets dark at night: we were not meant to see everything all the time. We were meant to rest and trust even in the darkness.”

+ Morgan Harper Nichols

“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.”

+ Anne Lamott

A word from the artist:

“As I began this particular image, I imagined a scene of chaos and apocalypse. However, as I drew a woman lifting her head and reaching for the fig tree, I began to see a vision of beauty and hope, a glimpse of one's whole being awake to wonder. ... In this image and in Jesus' words, I see a call to resilience despite the difficult realities that confront us. I see a longing so deep that it keeps us reaching—for a home restored, for comfort renewed, for the fruit that is sure to come.”

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HANGING OF THE GREEN

Sunday, December 1, 2024 • 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: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Roper Halverson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Hope

Holly Norton

(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 Jeremiah's promise in our hearts and God's blessing drawing near, we light the candle of hope, declaring this sign to the world that God's hope for all creation is at hand.

RESPONSE: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Sav-ior of the na - tions, come, show your - self the Vir - gin's son.
Fill with won - der, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.

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

VENI EMMANUEL

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

David Williamson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PREPARING THE HOUSE

Emily Hull McGee

BLESSING OF THE EVERGREENS

Nikki Byers

(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.**

HYMN 86: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

JEFFERSON

BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS

Mary Kaylor

(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: *Carol of the Huron*

arr. W. Hatch

Chancel Ringers
Kyle Caudle, Conga Drum

BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Jeff Kessler

(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 Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN 96: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

(Stanzas 1,3)

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

Holly Kessler

(Please read in unison.)

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

ANTHEM: *All Praise to Thee*

E. Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir

All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds on worlds are Thine alone.
Alleluia. Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the
light, to make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee
shine. Alleluia. A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones in Thee
may rest; forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heaven from
earth. Alleluia

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy McClure

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: Luke 21:25-36

Kyle Caudle

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "Your Redemption Is Drawing Nigh"

Emily Hull McGee

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Lo, He Comes with Clouds, Descending*

HELMSLEY

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.

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our sal -
 2. Yea, a - men! let all adore thee, high on thine e -
 va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the power and the glo - ry;
 swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 claim the king - dom as thine own. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign and thou a - lone.

*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE

Carlos Mir

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

OFFERTORY: *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

arr. C. Moglebust

Spire Ringers

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Kaylor

***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.

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.

SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week:

Children & Families Greeter:

Streaming and Sound Team:

Carlos Mir and Roper Halverson

Kim Wilkinson

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.

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. 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.



Penny Campaign

The Youth are supporting Samaritan Ministries through their Penny Campaign. Help us support our neighbors in need by bringing cash to drop in the donation jars scattered around the Church House or scan this QR code and select **First on Fifth** to contribute to our youth group team's goal!

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for December are Hot Beverages (Tea, Hot Cocoa, Instant Coffee) Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

Words for the Beginning

Advent Worship at First on Fifth

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. This year during Advent at First on Fifth, we'll return to the very beginning to hear words of blessing that came with the blessing of a baby born for the sake of us all. Our worship will ground us in the gifts of this waiting season, and our prayer will be that for all of us, Love becomes our beginning once again.

December 8 | Advent 2 | PEACE
All Flesh Shall See (Luke 3:1-6)

December 21 | Longest Night | 6:00 pm
A quiet and reflective time of worship

December 15 | Advent 3 | JOY
Service of Lessons & Carols

December 22 | Advent 4 | LOVE
Blessed are You (Luke 1:39-55)

December 24 | Christmas Eve | 5:00pm
Do Not Be Afraid (Luke 2:1-20)

Christmas Eve service for all ages with communion, candlelight, and carols



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH
ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 1 | Women's Ornament Exchange

Kick off the Holiday Season with the women at First on Fifth at our annual Ornament Exchange. We will gather in the Commons on Sunday, December 1, from 3:00-5:00pm. Bring a wrapped ornament and a sweet or salty snack to share. Drinks will be provided. Contact Holly Kessler at hollysolomontoo@gmail.com

December 3, 10, and 17 | Midweek Advent Series

Join Pastor Kyle for an Advent series entitled "Light a Candle" focusing on the prayers and poetry of theologian and mystic Howard Thurman. This class will meet in the Baraca Room at 12:00pm on the first three Tuesdays in December and will utilize a conversational teaching style.

December 6 | Board Games Affinity Group, 7:00pm

Come connect, compete, and enjoy a night of fellowship and friendly competition with our Board Games Affinity group! Contact Dana Patrick with any questions (dpatrick@wakehealth.edu).

December 7 | Children's Christmas Musical: *Gifts from the Heart*, 2 pm

Come join our children as they enact their delightful Christmas musical on Saturday Dec. 7 at 2:00pm! Bring a dessert to share at our reception to follow.

December 10 | Theology on Tap, 7:30pm

Join us at The Remedy (492 West End Blvd) for a relaxed and open gathering where faith and curiosity meet! Come enjoy good company, meaningful conversation, and refreshing beverages. No pressure, just great dialogue in a laid-back setting. All are welcome! Contact Matt Steen with any questions (mattsteen@gmail.com).

December 11 | Older Adult Christmas Lunch

Please join us on Wednesday, December 11 at 11:30 am as we enjoy a nice meal and fellowship, graciously hosted by Trinity Moravian Church. We will meet at Trinity Moravian Church, so plan some extra time to get there and park. RSVP in your newsletter!

December 14 | 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 14 | Young Adult Holiday Celebration

Join us on Saturday, December 14 for dinner and celebration at Holly & Jeff Kessler's house. Dinner will be provided. Feel free to bring an app or dessert to share. We will celebrate the season with fellowship and games. Bring a \$25 gift card to your favorite local spot (restaurant, shop, bakery, etc.) to be a part of our gift card exchange. Please let Mary know if you plan to attend and any dietary restrictions.

December 15 | Service of Lessons and 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 15 | Pop-Up Market, 12:00pm

We will once again have our Pop-Up Market this year! In addition to picking up your pre-ordered shirts and ornaments, we will have a variety of winter items and goods from our mission partners such as Honor Cards from Crisis Control (Available now! see Lee Anne Stiffler).

December 15 | Churchwide Tanglewood Lights

We invite people of all ages to join us on a wagon ride with your First on Fifth family Sunday, Dec. 15 at 5pm as we travel through the Tanglewood Festival of Lights. Cost is \$5/person. Sign up in your newsletter!

December 21 | Longest Night Service, 6pm

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 1

- 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*)
2:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)
3:00 pm Children's Musical Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
3:00 pm Women's Ornament Exchange (*Commons*)

MONDAY, December 2

- 7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)

TUESDAY, December 3

- 10:00 am Care Notes (*Commons*)
7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 4

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (*Commons*)
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsals (*Sanctuary & Music Suite*)
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, December 5

- 10:00 am Messiah Orchestra Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
2:00 pm Messiah Orchestra Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

FRIDAY, December 6

- 7:00 pm Board Game Affinity Group (*Baraca*)
7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)

SATURDAY, December 7

- 9:30 am Children's Musical Dress Rehearsal
2:00 pm Children's Musical Performance (*Kelly*)

SUNDAY, December 8

- 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*)
3:00 pm Messiah Performance (*offsite*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

Rev. Kyle Caudle
Associate Pastor
Youth, Missions, Adults
kyle@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1005

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

Ryan Jones
Media Contractor
ryanjones@dogoodbrands.biz

Rev. Mary Kaylor
Minister for Newcomers and Young Adults
mary@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1006

Gary Knight
Transitional Facilities Manager
facilities@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1102

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 & Communications Manager
olena@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1000



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

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

BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION