

Promise

by Meta Herrick Carlson

Every time God makes
a covenant with creation –
the people and the nations,
the divine is leaning in.

Limitless power
declares limits for itself,
choosing a real connection
over and against everything else.

Heaven keeps coming near,
until one day, God is feeding
at the breast of one who whispers
sacred promises right back.

A Dream Confirmed, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity



First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 22, 2024 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium'*

Jacob Hill, Organ

T.F.H. Candlyn

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Micah 5:2-5a

Amy McClure

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Love

Preston and Laura Cook
James and Tommy Cook

(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 Micah 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: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



ANTHEM: *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.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1: 39-55

Linda Jones

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kyle Caudle

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

**All: God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your story,
we resist the cost of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Kyle Caudle

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.)

INTERLUDE: *Ding Dong Merrily on High*

S. Tucker

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Emily Hull McGee

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: "Blessed are You"

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

David Williamson

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*

arr. P. Fey

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes:</u>	Silas McGee and Eli Steen
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Kelly King and Linda 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 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.



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 (Monday 12/23 and Friday 12/27) 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!



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

BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.



FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24 | Christmas Eve Service | 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve service for all ages with communion, candlelight, and carols to orient us toward the birth of Jesus.

December 29 | New Years Brunch, 9:30am
We gather the Sunday after Christmas and enjoy a church brunch during the Sunday School hour.

The Good Life

Worship this Winter at First on Fifth

There's something about a new year that invites a reset: reframing expectations for our life amidst the turning of a page. We hold up this annual tendency against our contemporary context, where anger and despair and unhappiness fill the hearts of so many. This winter in worship, we'll hear stories of the life revealed by God in Jesus and consider how his good life informs our own.

January 12 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday

The Good Life: Beloved

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Deacon Ordination and Installation

January 19

The Good Life: Delighted

John 2:1-11

January 26

The Good Life: Proclaimed

Luke 4:16-21

February 2

The Good Life: Fulfilled

Luke 4:21-30

Communion Sunday

February 9

The Good Life: Caught

Luke 5:1-11

February 16

The Good Life: Blessed

Luke 6:17-26

February 23

The Good Life: Reconciled

Luke 6:27-38

March 2 | Transfiguration Sunday

The Good Life: Astounded

Luke 9:28-43a

January 5 | Youth Epiphany Party!

In celebration of the Magi who traveled and gave gifts to the Christ-child, First on Fifth Youth will have a progressive dinner that will begin with appetizers at the Sabbagh home at 4:00pm, continue with the main course at the Knight home, and conclude with desserts and a white elephant gift swap in the Commons at the church house. Pick up at the church at 7:30pm. Contact Kyle at kyle@firstonfifth.org for more details.

January 5 | Arts and Crafts Affinity Group, 2-4 pm

If you love to be creative and also want to have a great time of conversation and community please join us for the arts and crafts affinity group. We will meet in the Baraca Room to create prayer journals for the new year and more importantly foster community. We hope you will join us! Please RSVP in your Newsletter or online!

Year-End Contributions

Thank you so much for supporting the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! As we approach the end of 2024, please know that in order for your gifts to be included in your 2024 contribution statement they must follow these deadlines:

- Hand-delivered contributions must be received by 10:00 am 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. To ensure processing can be completed by 12/31, plan to start the process not later than 12/16 and notify Sally (sally@firstonfifth.org) when your transaction has been initiated.

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

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!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 22

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*)

MONDAY, December 23

TUESDAY, December 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (*Sanctuary & online*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 25

Merry Christmas!
Church Office Closed

THURSDAY, December 26

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 27

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, December 28

SUNDAY, December 29

9:30 am New Years Brunch (*Kelly*)
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

Save these Dates in the New Year!

January 5 - Epiphany Sunday
January 12 - Deacon Ordination and Installation
January 26 - New Member Meet and Greet
January 28 - Quarterly Church Conference
March 5 - Ash Wednesday
April 13 - Palm Sunday
April 17 - Maundy Thursday
April 18 - Good Friday Tenebrae
April 20 - Easter Sunday
April 25-27 - Churchwide Camping Trip

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



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

BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION