



The Risk of Birth

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war and hate
And a nova lighting the sky to war.
That time runs out and sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
in a land in the crushing grip of Rome:
Honour and truth were trampled by scorn-
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth
And by greed and pride the sky is torn-
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

✚ Madeleine L'Engle

Abolition Baby, Nicolette Peñaranda

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24, 2024 • 5:00 PM

ORGAN PRELUDE

Jacob Hill, Organ

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 9:2-7

Matthew Loftis

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE

Amber and Bethany Myers
Jordynn Elizalde and Oliver Myers

(Please read silently)

On this Christmas Eve, we face the night with Light. Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we light the candle of Hope. Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into plowshares, we light the candle of Peace. Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we light the candle of Joy. Because hatred is strong and suffering persists, we light the candle of Love. And in the midst of it all, a child comes to dwell among us. We light the Christ candle, trusting that this Light is one no darkness can overcome.

RESPONSE: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

David Williamson

(Please read in unison.)

**God of glory,
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.**

*HYMN 104: *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Stanza 1: Annabelle and Emily Hull McGee
Stanzas 2-4: Congregation

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Amy McClure

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

A CHRISTMAS STORY: *"The Christmas Blessing"*

Emily Hull McGee & Amy McClure

CAROL MEDLEY

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new- born King!"

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

Colin Loftis

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 148: *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

MEDITATION: *"Do Not Be Afraid"*

Emily Hull McGee

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

SENDING FORTH

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.
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Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing

BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

arr. K. Chapman

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WELCOME TO FIRST ON FIFTH!

If you are visiting with us tonight for the first time, we welcome you for this special Christmas Eve service! 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 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. We're glad you're here, and merry Christmas!



Supporting God's Work of Love through First 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.

Mark Your Calendars!

December 25-27 – Church offices closed
December 29 – New Years Brunch, 9:30am
January 1 – Church offices closed

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

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BOLD LOVE. BOUNDLESS COMPASSION.