



“If there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.”

+ Danish proverb

“Every morning when you wake up, decide to live the life God has given you to live right now. Refuse to live yesterday over and over again. Resist the temptation to save your best self for tomorrow. Do not put off living the kind of life you meant to live. There is no time for that, no matter how much time is left. Go ahead and make the decision, write the letter, get the help you need, find someone to love, give yourself away. Why waste your time making preparations for an end time you cannot predict? Live prepared. Live a caught-up life, not a put-off life, so that wherever you are – standing in a field or grinding at the mill, or just going about the everyday business of your life – you are ready for God, for whatever happens next, not afraid but wide awake, watching for the Lord who never tires of coming to the world.”

+ Barbara Brown Taylor

Keep Awake, Lauren Wright Pittman

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HANGING OF THE GREEN

Sunday, November 30, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*
Angels from the Realms of Glory

arr. C. Mizell
arr. J. Krug

Spire Ringers

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 2:1-5

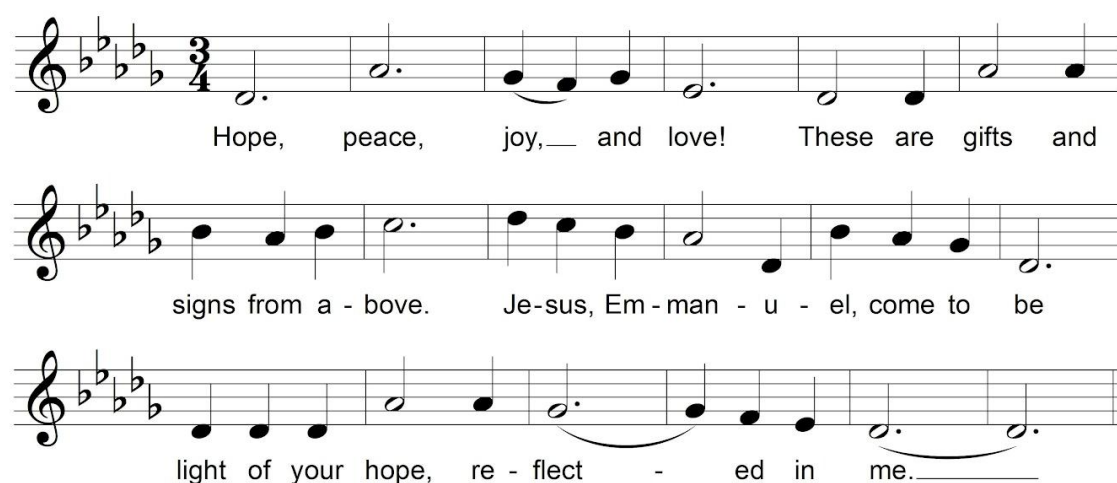
Jane Hull

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Hope

Dean Culler

(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 Isaiah'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.



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

VENI EMMANUEL

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Amy McClure

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PREPARING THE HOUSE

Emily Hull McGee

BLESSING OF THE EVERGREENS

Mary Kaylor

(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.**

CAROL: *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*

C. Wood

Sanctuary Choir

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding dong! verily the sky
is riven with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! E'en so here below, let
steeple bells be swungen. and i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen. Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you
beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS

Wally Cox

(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: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

M. Praetorius

Men's Chorus

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night.

BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Mary Nell Harris

(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.**

CAROL: *Now the Holly Bears a Berry*

arr. A.L. Page

Chancel Ringers

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

Kyle Caudle

(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.**

*HYMN 131: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

David Williamson

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: Matthew 24:36-44

Emily Hull McGee

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "Prepare Him Room in Uncertainty"

Emily Hull McGee

*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 descend - ing, once for our sal -
2. Yea, a - men! let all a - dore 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

Carol Wilkinson

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.

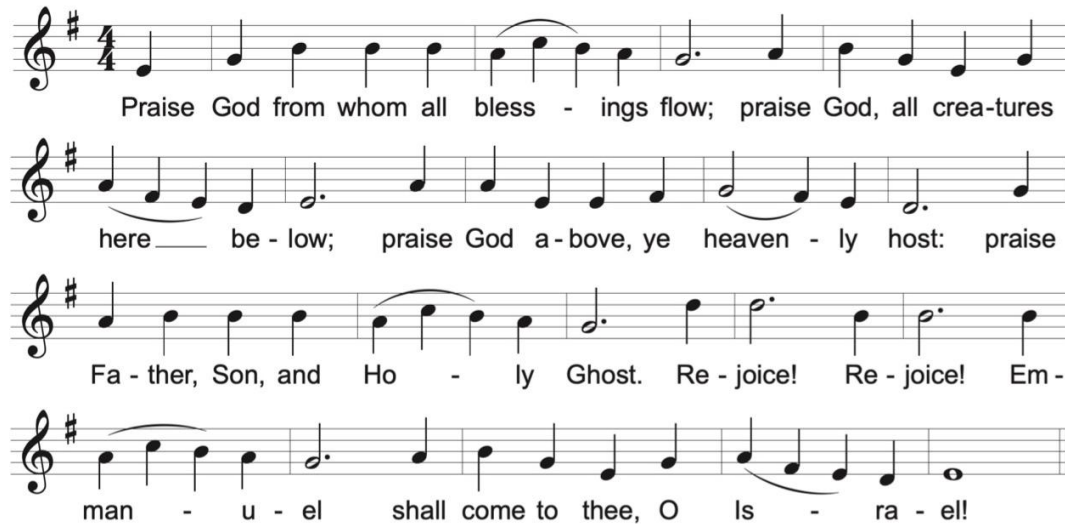
GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Olena Withrow

*DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL



*BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: XII. Noel Suisse

L.C. Daquin

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love” words by Randy Edwards and Sherry Upshaw, music by Randy Edwards, ©1999, Birnamwood Publications, Used by permission, OneLicense A-720038

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes:

William Townsend and Eli Steen

Deacon of the Week:

Carol Wilkinson and Wally Cox

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 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. Restrooms are available on either side of the Narthex at the back of the sanctuary and on every level in the back half of our building. 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. 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.



LISTENING ASSIST AVAILABLE

To access the listening assist system, please scan the QR code to download the Listen Everywhere app to your smartphone. Make sure you are connected to the firstonfifth-guest WIFI network. Password: boldandboundless. Select the main channel on the app, and ensure the sound is unmuted in the bottom left corner.



YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

Thank you so much for supporting the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! To be included in your 2025 contribution statement, please be aware of the following 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 First Baptist Church brokerage account at Alex Brown. To ensure processing can be completed by 12/31, plan to start the process by 12/15 and notify Sally 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 November are baking items (Cooking Oil, Baking Mixes, etc.) Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites you to donate canned goods (beans, peas, corn, etc.) to Una Bendición, which provides a point of connection between Spanish-speaking families and the many available resources in our city. Please place donations by the Crisis Control bins.

FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepare Him Room: Advent Worship

"Let every heart prepare him room!," we sing each Christmas. The season of Advent becomes an invitation for a holy hollowing-out of what has been, calling us to lay aside what we carry in our fear to let it go and welcome God-with-us inside. This Advent, our worship will ground us in the sacred work of preparation for the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love to be born once again!

December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare Him Room with Good Fruit
Matthew 3:1-12
Communion Sunday

December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent

Service of Lessons & 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 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prepare Him Room When Plans Change
Matthew 1:18-25

December 21 | Longest Night Service, 6:00pm

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.

December 24 | Christmas Eve, 5:00pm

The House of Christmas
Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Eve service for all ages with communion, candlelight, and carols

Advent Devotionals

This Advent you are invited to draw near the light with the churchwide devotional, *Draw Near*, by Teri McDowell Ott. Devotionals are available in your newsletter as pdf files and print copies are available in the church office. Contact Kyle with questions.

Advent Kits

Items for you to make meaning during your observance of Advent will be available in the Ammons-Lolley Commons. Come and make your own Advent kit!

It's Time for a New Church Directory!

We will take photos in the church office on Sunday mornings, November 30, December 7, 14, & 21 from 9:15-9:45am and following worship until 12:45pm. You do not need an appointment, just show up on the day that works best for your family! Contact Olena@firstonfifth.org with any questions.

December 5 | Young Adult Christmas Party

Holly and Jeff Kessler will host the Young Adult Christmas party at their home on Friday, December 5 at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite snack under \$10 wrapped up for a gift exchange. Dinner will be provided. Let Mary know if you're coming!

December 7 | Women's Ornament Exchange

Join us for the annual Ornament Exchange in The Commons on Sunday, December 7 from 3-5pm. Bring a wrapped ornament and a sweet or savory snack to share. Drinks will be provided. No RSVP necessary but contact Holly Kessler at hollysolomontoo@gmail.com with questions.

December 10 | Older Adult Christmas Lunch

Please join us at 11:30am in Kelly Auditorium for our annual Christmas Lunch! There will be good food, great entertainment, and even better fellowship with all of you. There is a suggested donation of \$10/person and if you'd like to bring a fun Christmas dessert to share, feel free! RSVP in your Newsletter.

December 13 | Young Adults at RMH

Young Adults will serve at the Ronald McDonald House on Saturday, December 13th. We'll meet and bake holiday goodies from 12-2pm for the families staying at RMH. Contact Mary with any questions.

December 14 | Christmas Open House, 4:00-6:00pm

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 18 | Tanglewood Lights, 6:00pm

We invite people of all ages to join us on a wagon ride with your First on Fifth family as we travel through the Tanglewood Festival of Lights. Cost is \$5/person. RSVP in your Newsletter.

Seeking Donations | Women's Trip to the DR

The folks going on the Women's Trip to the Dominican Republic are collecting travel-sized soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, wash cloths, reading glasses, small stuffed animals, chap stick, glue sticks, knitted/crocheted hats, 50-gallon ziploc bags, and packaged Neosporin. This collection box will be located on top of the first floor bins. Thank you for your support!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, November 30
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*)
2:30 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)

MONDAY, December 1
7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)

TUESDAY, December 2
7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Commons*)
10:00 am Care Notes (*Commons*)
6:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting (*online*)
7:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 3
11:00 am Staff Meeting (*Conference*)
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsals (*Sanctuary & Music suite*)
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, December 4
10:00 am Downtown walking group (*offsite*)
Messiah Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
2:00 pm Messiah Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

FRIDAY, December 5
6:30 pm YA Christmas Party (*offsite*)
7:00 pm Board Games Affinity Group (*Commons*)
Messiah Rehearsal (*Kelly*)

SATURDAY, December 6

SUNDAY, December 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*)
3:00 pm Women's Ornament Exchange (*Commons*)
Messiah Performance (*offsite*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

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