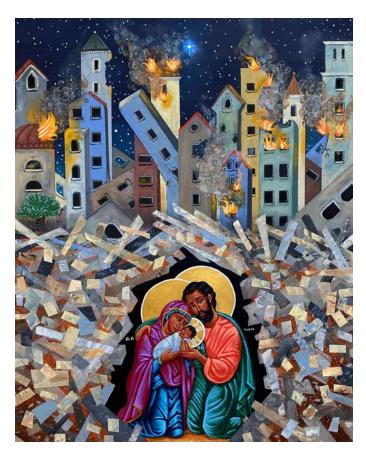
Into the Darkest Hour by Madeleine L'Engle

It was a time like this,
War & tumult of war,
a horror in the air.
Hungry yawned the abyss –
and yet there came the star
and the child most wonderfully there.

It was a time like this of fear & lust for power, license & greed and blight – and yet the Prince of bliss came into the darkest hour in quiet & silent light.

And in a time like this How celebrate his birth When all things fall apart? Ah! Wonderful it is with no room on the earth the stable is our heart.



Christ in the Rubble, Kelly Latimore

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS Sunday, December 14, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 35:1-10

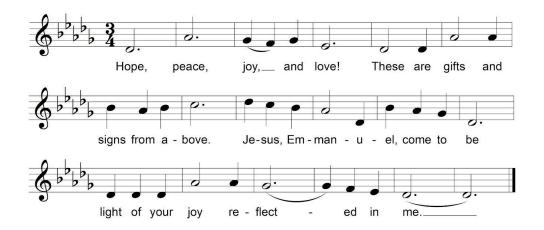
Julie Hall

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Joy

William and Megan Strollo Faye Strollo and Nellie Strollo

(Please read silently)

We mark Joy Sunday today even as darkness eclipses gladness around us. We carry the Christ-light into the shadows of sadness, indifference, anxiety, loss. With the ancient words of Isaiah's promise in our hearts we light the candle of joy, declaring this sign to the world that God's joy for all creation is at hand!



*HYMN 103: O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Mary Kaylor

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

BIDDING PRAYER David Williamson

Leader: Beloved in Christ, with delight we prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us therefore open the Holy Scriptures and read the earliest story of our disobedience to God's holy will, which is common to us all; and then the story of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord, to save us from our sins. And let us thank him with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of this whole world: In a world fragmented by warring factions and rampant injustice, we pray for peace and goodwill over all the earth.

All: Hear us, O God, in the silence of our hearts.

Leader: We pray for reconciling love and unity within the church Christ formed to be his continuing body to minister to the world.

All: Hear us, O God, from the depths of our spirits.

Leader: We pray for the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved.

All: Hear us, O God, as we seek your strength.

Leader: We pray for those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

All: Hear us, O God, as we yearn to tell your good news.

Leader: We pray for the great cloud of witnesses of all times and places whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and whose home is with you forever.

All: Hear us, O God, as we join with them to give you praise.

Leader: These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

All: 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.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

Kyle Caudle

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

P. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming soon. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

Judy Eustice

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all nations of the earth shall be blessed.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Of the Father's Love Begotten

T. Johnson

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! O ye heights of heaven adore him. Angel hosts his praises sing. Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Now let all in chorus praise him; join to sing his gracious birth. Praise his willing condescension; marvel that he dwells on earth, very God, yet truly brother, humble babe, eternal King, evermore! Let every voice in concert ring! Alleluia! Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Ann Phelps

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr, D. Forrest

Congregation: Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;

dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Choir: Come, O Sovereign Prince of Heaven; come, O wondrous Love Divine.

Earth and heaven bow before Thee, Everlasting Peace sublime. O Thou Source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek Thy face. At Thy manger grant us mercy, in thine Advent grant us grace.

Congregation: Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,

born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

David Hughes

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

arr. J. Black

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow. Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing! For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Amy McClure

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: All My Heart This Night Rejoices

T. Manor

All my heart rejoices. All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices. All my heart rejoices. "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing. Christ is born! And all my heart rejoices. Softly from His lowly manger Jesus calls one and all, "You are safe from danger. Children from the sins that grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will give you!" And all my heart rejoices! Come, then, banish all your sadness; one and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness. Love Him who with love is glowing; Hail the Star, near and far light and joy bestowing! All my heart rejoices! Choirs are singing, joy is ringing; Christ is born!

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1, 3-7 Norah Knight

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Love's Pure Light

E. Hagenberg

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. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, Love's pure light.

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

Carlos Mir

The shepherds go to the manger.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. D. Forrest

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing! "Glory to the newborn King!" Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing!"Glory to the newborn King!" Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace, hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth, Hark! the herald angels sing! "Glory to the newborn King!"

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

Kenneth Townsend

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Star Carol R. Hobby

Earth has many a noble city; Bethlehem, thou dost all excel: out of thee the Lord from heaven came to rule his Israel. Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth, to the world its God announcing, seen in fleshly form, on earth. Eastern sages at his cradle make oblations rich and rare; see them give, in deep devotion, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Sacred gifts of mystic meaning: incense doth their God disclose, gold the King of kings proclaimeth, myrrh his sepulchre foreshows. May we lift our eyes in wonder, see thy star and worship thee; may the nations sing rejoicing, offer praise on bended knee. Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped at thy glad Epiphany, unto thee, with God the Father and the Spirit glory be.

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 124: The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

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

Joe Bircher

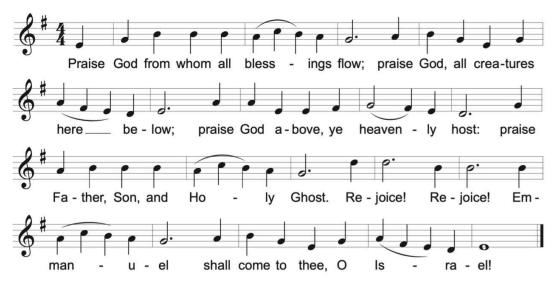
The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship of which all are invited to participate. In a moment, Deacons will pass the offering plates for you to share your financial contribution to support the ministries of First Baptist Church. 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

Emily Hull McGee

*DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL



*BENEDICTION Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE

^{*}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 and Crucifer

Deacon of the Week:

Children & Families Creet

Children & Families Greeter: Streaming and Sound Team: Casey Masten, Elvie Cox, and Joe Smelcer Joe Bircher and Susan Welch

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.



ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Monika Wilmot,
Concertmaster
Chang Zhang
Associate Concertmaster
Marjorie Sharpe

Violin 2

Nick Williams, *Principal*Deanna Miller
Flizabeth Gatewood

Viola

Catherine Box, Principal Matthew Box Mark Snow Cello

Emily Grissing, *Principal* Rebecca Fuller

Double Bass

Matthew Rybicki

Flute

Rebecca Nussbaum

Oboe

Rachel Messing

Horn

Wyatt Gibson

Trumpet

Ken Wilmot Karl Kassner

Trombone

Erik Salzwedel

Tuba

Matthew Ransom

Percussion/Timpani

Tim Heath
Dante Thomas

POINSETTIAS

Given In Memory Of:

Danny Brown by Amy McClure & Karen Brown
Daniel Hudgins by Amy McClure & Karen Brown
Emil Nathan III by Nancy Nathan
Alice & Worth Chandler by Nancy Nathan
Daniel Hudgins by Liam, Annabelle & Silas McGee
Our grandparents by Josh & Emily Hull McGee
Reba L. & Henry L. Falls, Sr. by Janet Falls
Homer Dickenson by Pam & Garry Whitaker
Nellie C. & Charles A. Stewart, Jr. by Mark Stewart
Captain D. Seth Mitchell by Mark Stewart
Karen S. & Scottie Snyder by Mark Stewart
Jason Peter Huff, Jr. by Linwood & Martha Davis
Lawrence Davis by Linwood and Martha Davis
Eleanor & Egbert L. Davis, Jr. by Linwood &
Martha Davis

Bob Owen by Patricia Owen

Chandran, Menaka, Premakar, Bhavani by Rachel & Christina

Robert Whittle by Jan Whittle

Stella W. Wilcox by Jan Whittle

Jetty Lee Davis by Bethany Leggett

Our furry friends by Olivia Blake

Jane Hinson by Bill & Dona Hinson

Spencer & Betty White by Bill & Donna Hinson

Joe Sykes by Linda Stewart & Tim Sykes

Don Stewart by his family

Kay Rolison by Phil & Lisa Rolison

Janet Rolison by Phil & Lisa Rolison

Kristi Rolison by Phil & Lisa Rolison

Tom Petty by Phil & Lisa Rolison

Walter R. Wiley III by Florence & Walter Wiley

Sandra A. Beasley by Lee & Steve Loftis family

Rev. Ronald W. Lofts by Lee & Steve Loftis family

Howard & Lois Jones by Sheree Jones

Pam Laurence by Sheree Jones

Sun T. Choe by Billy Choe

The Tabors by Billy Choe

Jack & Katherine Kimbrell by Karen Kimbrell

Don Robertson by Judy & Terry Lovelace

Arnett Harris by Mary Nell Harris

Deborah S. Allsbrook by Sibyl & David Smelcer

Janice T. Shearin by Sibyl & David Smelcer

Jim Cook by Marty Cook

O. G. & Emily Allen by Marty Cook

Ruby Stainback by Beth & Gene Stainback

George & Betty Norwood by Beth & Gene Stainback

Terry B. Grissing & family by Emily Grissing

Susan G. Conley by Emily Grissing

Kipling Bishop Baade by Olena & Devin Withrow

Jack & Patty Peacock by Julie Hall

Dale & Diane Messick by Ralph & Pat Messick

Sylvia & Jim Gilley by Ralph & Pat Messick

Larry & Marsha Kessler by Jeff & Holly Kessler

John & Earline Lewis by Barry & Linda Lewis

Richard & Faye Moore by Barry & Linda Lewis

Given In Honor Of:

Doug & Patty McClure by Amy McClure & Karen Brown

Kathy Brown by Amy McClure & Karen Brown

Beloved community & staff of First Baptist on Fifth

by Josh & Emily Hull McGee

Frances Hester by Nathan Mitchell

Frankie H. Dickenson by Pam & Garry Whitaker

Rev. Emily Hull McGee & family by Patricia Owen

Rev. David Williamson by Patricia Owen

Dr. & Mrs. David Hughes by Patricia Owen

Benjamin Oliver Reeves by Bethany Leggett

Rev. Charles Hinson by Bill & Donna Hinson

Harry Rolison by Phil & Lisa Rolison

Arnetta Petty by Phil & Lisa Rolison

Eve & Steve Andrews by Paul & Sara Sinal

Robert & Greta Wiley by Florence & Walter Wiley Elizabeth, Jacob & Jack Douglass by Florence &

Walter Wiley

Steve Wilt by Florence & Walter Wiley

Eve & Steve Andrews by Judy & Terry Lovelace

Karly Parker by Joy Gambill





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 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

It's Time for a New Church Directory!

We will take photos in the church office on Sunday mornings, December 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 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 31 | Youth Serve at Second Harvest

Youth and Parents are invited to serve at Second Harvest Foodbank on Wednesday December 31 from 9-1pm. Let Kyle know if you plan to attend by December 14, so we can plan for serving and lunch.

Sign-Up for Text Alerts!

As winter weather rolls in, we want to make sure we are able to communicate effectively in the event of emergency updates. Text "first" to (336) 703-9745 to opt-in for text updates.

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

January 4 | Epiphany Brunch, No Sunday School Please join us in Kelly Auditorium at 9:45 to kick off the new year as we enjoy some light brunch food and fellowship.

January 4 | Youth Epiphany Party 4:00-7:00pm In celebration of the Magi traveling and giving gifts to the Christ-child, the youth ministry will have a progressive dinner that will begin with appetizers at the Hull's, continue with the main course at the Knight's, and conclude with desserts and a white elephant gift swap in the Commons at the church.

January 11 | Deacon Ordination & Installation

On January 11, 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.

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gifts for December are Spices (Salt, Pepper, Cinnamon, Basil, Vanilla Extract, 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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 14

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (online)
9:15 am Directory Photos (Church Office)
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)12:00pm Directory Photos (Church Office)4:00 pm Churchwide Christmas Open House

(offsite)

MONDAY, December 15

TUESDAY, December 16

7:30 am Devotional Classics (Commons) 5:30 pm Finance Committee (online) 8:00 pm Evening Prayer (online)

WEDNESDAY, December 17 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

(Sanctuary)

6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals

(Choir Room)

THURSDAY, December 18

10:00 am Downtown Walking Group 6:00 pm Tanglewood Lights (offsite)

FRIDAY, December 19

SATURDAY, December 20

SUNDAY, December 21

9:00 am Sunday Bible Study (online)
9:15 am Directory Photos (Church Office)
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)12:00pm Directory Photos (Church Office)6:00 pm Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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Accounting Manager

sally@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1103

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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 Associate Pastor

Newcomers, Young Adults, Community Engagement

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

Rev. Olena Withrow

Pastoral Resident, Ministry Assistant &

Communications Manager

olena@firstonfifth.org | Ext. 1000

