"Christmas for me has already started because I know that when Jesus is born, the man who will teach him, raise him, care for him, show him how to be a carpenter, take him to the synagogue, teach him his Bible, and teach him his lessons is a good man and he will do right. When you have somebody like that, it is already Christmas, and Christmas will last as long as God can find in every community one person who says, 'I will do what is right.'... The question, of course, is whether or not you will be that person."

+ Fred Craddock

"Dreams are the way God frees us and rebirths us and pushes us into new life. So it is with Joseph, confused and scared and wanting to do what is right. So it is with us, wondering what God can possibly be up to."

+ Susan Anderson

The Courageous Choice, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 21, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: Reflections on 'E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come'
Jacob Hill, Organ

P. Manz

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 7:10-16

Scott Hudgins

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Love

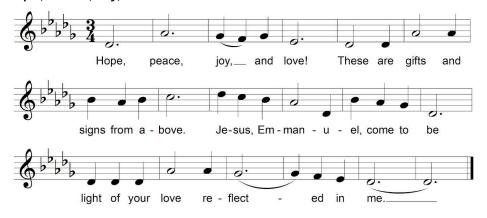
Jamie and Melissa Dellinger Owen Dellinger, Amelia Dellinger

(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 Isaiah 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: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

BAUGH



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Olena Withrow

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the One who dared to send angels to announce a Savior born for the redemption of the world.

All: Eternal and Everlasting God, we ask for your mercy.

Though we have heard the song of angels, declaring good news, we live in fear of the ever-present darkness that surrounds us. Though we have rehearsed your Christmas story over and over, we often grow weary continuing your work of love in this world.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to work for the justice you intend.

Make us messengers of the love you bring.

Eternal God who comes to us in surprising ways,

show us the face of Emmanuel in our time.

Bring us from fear to awe, until our voices are joined with those of the angels singing, "Noel, Christ is born." Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: African Noel

arr. A. Thomas

Sanctuary Choir

Sing Noel! Sing we all Noel! O come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer. The King of Kings, the Lamb of God is born this day in Bethlehem. Sing Noel!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amy McClure

Leader: Friends, hear this very Good News:

God and sinners are forever reconciled through the gift of God's promised Holy One.

All is forgiven; be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us share the sign of a forgiven people 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.)

*HYMN 125: Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mary Kaylor

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 1:18-25

Emily Hull McGee

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "Prepare Him Room When Plans Change"

Emily Hull McGee

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 115: The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

KINGSFOLD

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

Mary Foskett

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: Now Leave Your Sheep

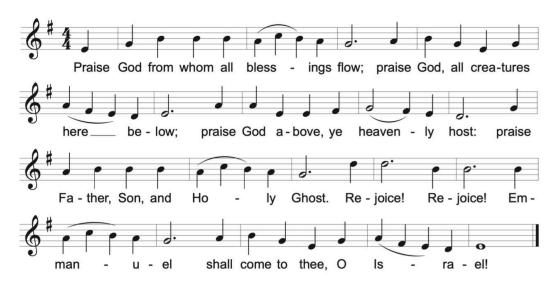
arr. A.L. Page

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Kyle Caudle

*DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL



*BENEDICTION Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

J.S. Bach

Jacob Hill, Organ

^{*}Those who are able will please stand.

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes: Abigail Townsend and Lilyana Salisbury

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u> Mary Foskett <u>Children & Families Greeter:</u> 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.

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 12/29-Wednesday 12/31 and Friday 1/2) 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!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

December 28 | No Sunday School

Enjoy a slower morning post-holiday! Sunday school classes will not meet. We'll have coffee and conversation as normal at 10:30am and meet for worship at 11:00 am, welcoming Rev. Bethany Leggett as our proclaimer!

It's Time for a New Church Directory!

This Sunday is the last Sunday to take your directory photo! If you need an alternate time, contact Olena@firstonfifth.org.

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.

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.

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

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.

January 19 | Youth and Kids Ice Skating

Youth, Kids, & Families are invited to an afternoon of ice skating on Monday January 19 from 1-4pm at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds (414 Deacon Blvd.). \$15 includes entrance and skate rental. Contact kyle@firstonfifth.org for more information.

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 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)

MONDAY, December 22

TUESDAY, December 23

8:00 pm Evening Prayer (online)

WEDNESDAY, December 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, December 25 Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, December 26 Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, December 27

SUNDAY, December 28

10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (Commons)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary & online)

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

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

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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

