

“I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.”

+ Henry David Thoreau

### Repent

by Meta Herrick Carlson

Do not holler over your shoulder  
or crane your neck to see  
a portion of where you have been,  
but rather turn your whole body around  
and plant your feet anew.  
Prepare for something whole,  
healing and restoration that  
summons your posture and attention.  
Listen to the distance and longing,  
squatting shoulders for repair  
and careful motion in this direction.  
Come home to yourself by way of  
truth about whose you are, reclaimed  
by a relentless mercy that waits.



*First Fruits*, Lauren Wright Pittman

## First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 7, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Jacob Hill, Organ

D. Buxtehude

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

THE PROPHECY: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

Olivia Blake

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Peace

Pam and Stacy Sword-Halsey

(Please read silently.)

On this Peace Sunday, we carry the Christ-light into the shadows of violence, anger, instability. We wait, actively and persistently, for God's coming light to overwhelm the world. With the ancient words of Isaiah's promise dwelling in our hearts and God's blessing drawing near, we light the candle of peace, declaring this sign to the world that God's peace for all creation is at hand.

**RESPONSE: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**

BAUGH

Hope, peace, joy, and love! These are gifts and  
signs from above. Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be  
light of your hope, reflect - ed in me.

**\*HYMN 83: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

HYFRYDOL

**PRAYER OF CONFESION**

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Our Long-Expected Jesus comes  
to set us free from sin and death.  
God does not want anyone to perish,  
but rather for all to come to repentance.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins,  
for God's salvation is at hand.

**All: Refining God, you have sent us prophets,  
but we have not listened.  
We have not always made good choices  
or made way for your reign of peace in our lives, our church, and our society.  
Forgive us we pray, and renew your covenant within us,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Mary Kaylor

Leader: Friends, by the mercy of the Prince of Peace  
our sins are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: Let us extend Christ's reign of peace  
to all those around us 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.)*

**ANTHEM: Zion, at Thy Shining Gates**

K. Lee Scott

Sanctuary Choir

Zion, at thy shining gates, Lo, the King of Glory waits; haste thy monarch now to  
greet, strew thy palms before his feet. Christ for thee their triple light, faith and hope  
and love unite; this the beacon we display to proclaim thine advent day. Come and  
give us peace within, loose us from the bands of sin, take away the galling weight laid  
on us by greed and hate. Give us grace thy yoke to wear, give us strength thy cross to  
bear, make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord. So when thou  
shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men, we with all thy saints shall sing  
alleluias to our King!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kyle Caudle

### 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.

### \*HYMN 85: *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

PLEADING SAVIOR

### GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 3:1-12

Emily Hull McGee

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON: "Prepare Him Room with Good Fruit"

Emily Hull McGee

### THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 86: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

JEFFERSON

*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

Cyrus Bush

*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. 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: *Celebrate the Joy*

D. Wagner

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

### THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Amy McClure

### \*DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

\*BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: Fanfare on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

P. Fey

Jacob Hill, Organ

\*Those who are able will please stand.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### SERVING TODAY

<u>Acolytes and Crucifer:</u>	Iris Mann, Nora Arredondo, and Audrey Mann
<u>Deacon of the Week:</u>	Cyrus Bush and Carol Wilkinson
<u>Children &amp; 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.



### 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!





## 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 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 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, 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 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.

### **Volunteer Opportunity at Una Bendición**

Looking for a great opportunity to address food insecurity and meet new neighbors? The Missions Committee at First Baptist invites you to serve at Una Bendición's Client Choice Food Pantry. This food pantry serves the Hispanic community and anyone in need. Please reach out to kyle@firstonfifth.org with any questions.

### **Food Truck Unloading Help**

Wednesday December 10 from 2:30-4pm

### **Client Choice Food Pantry Help**

Saturday December 13 from 9am-12pm

### **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. Let Mary know if you plan to be there!

### **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.

### **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.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 7

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

MONDAY, December 8

TUESDAY, December 9

7:30 am Devotional Classics (*Commons*)  
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, December 10

10:00 am Staff Meeting (*Conference*)  
11:30 am Older Adult Christmas Lunch (*Kelly*)  
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsals (*Sanctuary*)  
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, December 11

10:00 am Downtown Walking Group

FRIDAY, December 12

SATURDAY, December 13

12:00 pm Young Adults at RMH (*offsite*)  
2:00 pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

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 Christmas Open House (*offsite*)

## OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

## CHURCH STAFF

Sally Barbour  
*Accounting Manager*  
[sally@firstonfifth.org](mailto:sally@firstonfifth.org) | Ext. 1103

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Jacob Hill  
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Rev. Olena Withrow  
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## 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!

