

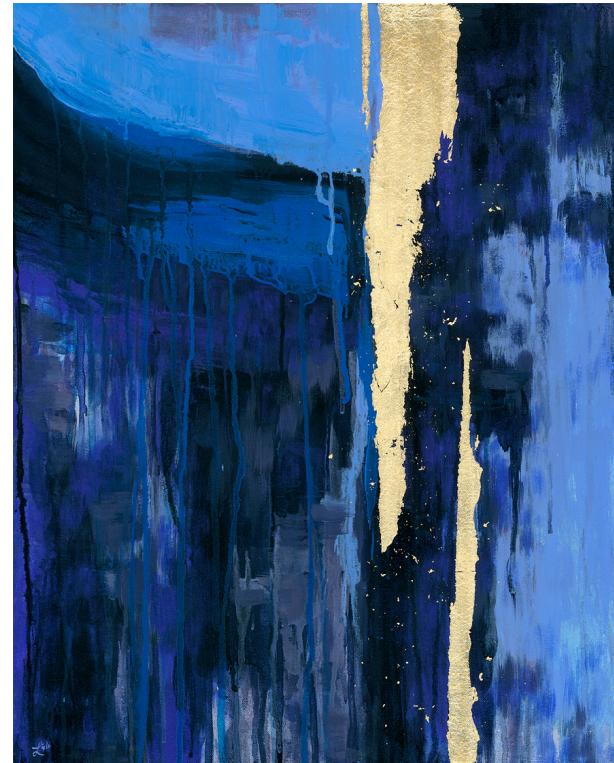
For Those Who Have Far to Travel
An Epiphany Blessing + Jan Richardson

If you could see the journey whole
you might never undertake it;
might never dare the first step
that propels you from the place you have known
toward the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:
that we see it only by stages
as it opens before us,
as it comes into our keeping
step by single step.
There is nothing for it but to go
and by our going take the vows the pilgrim takes:

to be faithful to the next step;
to rely on more than the map;
to heed the signposts of intuition and dream;
to follow the star that only you will recognize;
to keep an open eye for the wonders that
attend the path;
to press on beyond distractions, beyond fatigue
beyond what would tempt you from the way.

There are vows that only you will know;
the secret promises for your particular path
and the new ones you will need to make
when the road is revealed by turns
you could not have foreseen.
Keep them, break them, make them again:
each promise becomes part of the path;



Light Pierces Through, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

each choice creates the road
that will take you to the place
where at last you will kneel
to offer the gift most needed—
the gift that only you can give—
before turning to go
home by another way.

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
Sunday, January 4, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

Brian Ford, Violin

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Emily Hull McGee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyle Caudle

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Let us praise the Lord together.

**All: The sun shall no longer be our light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on us,
for the Lord will be our light, and our God will be our glory.**

Leader: The Lord will be our everlasting light,
and our days of sorrow will end.

All: Come, let us sing to our light and our salvation!

*HYMN 154: *Christ Is the World's Light*

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

PRAYER OF CONFESSON

David Williamson

Leader: In the light of Christ, we see the shadows
of our world and of our hearts.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins
before God and one another.

(Silent confession)

Let us pray:

All: Merciful God,
you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ,
but we have preferred to live in darkness.
Your justice protects the weak and the distressed,
yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.
Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy,
yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.
Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless,
yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.
Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,
that we may trust you in all things;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Olena Withrow

Leader: This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world,
the One who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The light of Christ has illuminated our darkness!
As light banishes the darkness of this world,
so may peace overcome all violence and hatred,
for this is the way of Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share these words of peace with those around you.)

ANTHEM: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. T. Fettke

Sanctuary Choir

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God, and Son of Man! Truly I'd love
Thee; truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown! Fair are the
meadows; fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring. Jesus is
fairer; Jesus is purer. He makes our sorrowing spirits sing. Beautiful Savior, Lord
of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forever, forevermore be Thine.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy McClure

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 96: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:1-14

Rob Norwood

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "Leaving Home: Pitching Tents"

Emily Hull McGee

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION & SHARING OF STAR WORDS

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 145: *Star-Child*

STAR-CHILD

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

Judy Eustice

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 on our website, firstonfifth.org.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Kaylor

*DOXOLOGY

THE FIRST NOWELL

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

*BENEDICTION

Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE

*Those who are able will please stand.

BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

At the conclusion of the worship service today you will be given an opportunity to contribute to the Benevolence Fund. This fund provides confidential financial assistance for individuals in times of crisis and is made possible by designated contributions. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to First Baptist Church, designated to the Benevolence Fund. Any cash offering received that is not designated in an envelope will be allocated to the Benevolence Fund.

SERVING TODAY

Deacon of the Week: Judy Eustice and Gary Stiffler
Children & Families Greeter: Kim Wilkinson
Streaming and Sound Team: Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder,
Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Amber Myers

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

If you have A/V experience or are interested in learning and serving as a volunteer with our streaming and sound ministry we would be glad to add you to this team. If you are interested in serving in this important section of our worship ministry, please contact David Williamson at david@firstonfifth.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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. 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.





**FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leaving Home

Epiphany Worship at First Baptist on Fifth

Writer Kelly Corrigan once said, “life happens when you leave the house.” Life surely happens, and often it happens not just when you leave the house, but when you leave home. Journeying away from what’s known and familiar is a common experience, even if disorienting and unclear. This Epiphany at First on Fifth, we’ll explore what *life* happens when we leave home and what *light* we find along the way, drawing our imagination from God who left home to dwell among us in Jesus, and Jesus, who calls us to “come and see.”

January 4 | Epiphany Sunday

Leaving Home: Pitching Tents

John 1:1-14

Communion Sunday; Receiving of Star Words

January 11 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Leaving Home: Underwater

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptisms of Nathan Mitchell, Julie Hall, and Day Pinto

Deacon Ordination and Installation

January 18

Leaving Home: Come and See

John 1:29-42

January 25

Leaving Home: Follow Me

Matthew 4:12-23

February 1

Leaving Home: Required

Micah 6:1-8

Communion Sunday

February 8

Leaving Home: Repaired

Isaiah 58:1-9a

February 15 | Transfiguration Sunday

Leaving Home: Fearless

Matthew 17:1-9

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.

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.

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.

January 25 | Churchwide Sunday School

You are invited to join a special churchwide Sunday School gathering on January 25! We hope you will join us as we share memories and hopes as part of 100 on Fifth: Home in the Heart of the City celebration. Together we remember the stories that built this place and renew our calling to build the church for generations to come. This gathering will be all-ages friendly!

January 28 | Quarterly Church Conference

As is our custom, we will gather by Zoom to do the regular business of the church for our Quarterly Church Conference on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30pm. See the newsletter that week for more info!

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gift for January is Beef Stew. 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, January 4

- 9:45 am Epiphany Brunch (*Kelly*)
10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (*Commons*)
11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*)
2:00 pm Arts & Crafts Group (*Baraca*)
4:00 pm Youth Epiphany Party

MONDAY, January 5

- 6:00 pm Community Engagement Ministry Team (*online*)

TUESDAY, January 6

- 10:00 am Care Notes (*Commons*)
5:30 pm Personnel Committee (*Conference*)
6:00 pm Children's Ministry Team (*online*)
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online*)

WEDNESDAY, January 7

- 11:00 am Staff Meeting (*Conference*)
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsals (*Sanctuary & Music Suite*)
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room*)

THURSDAY, January 8

- 10:00 am Downtown Walking Group

FRIDAY, January 9

SATURDAY, January 10

SUNDAY, January 11

- 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*)
Deacon Orientation and Installation
12:00 pm Leadership Orientation Lunch (*Kelly*)

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH STAFF

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