"To pay attention,
this is our endless and proper work."
+ Mary Oliver

“The season of Advent is an opportunity both to discover the nature of our enfeebled waiting muscles as well as our tired practices of anticipation and to discipline our hearts and minds, bodies and lives so that we might become, together, a people who wait with hope, who anticipate with faith, and who welcome the arrival of the Lord with courage in our hearts.”
+ W. David O. Taylor



Heavens Torn and Transformed, Lisle Gwynn Garrity

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HANGING OF THE GREEN
Sunday, November 29, 2026 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: *BWV. 645, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* — J.S. Bach
Jacob Hill, Organ

INVITATION TO WORSHIP — Emily Hull McGee

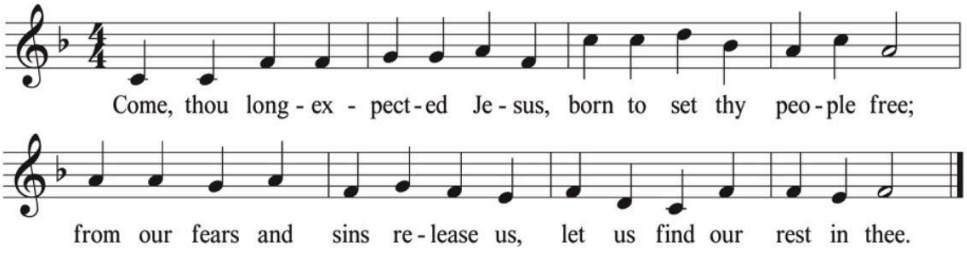
THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 64:1-9 — Carlos Mir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Hope — Anna Ball

(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.

RESPONSE: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* — STUTTGART



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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE David Williamson

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

PREPARING THE HOUSE Emily Hull McGee

BLESSING OF THE EVERGREENS Holly Kessler

(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.**

ANTHEM: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* K. Lee Scott

Sanctuary Choir

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand. The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free! Rejoice!

BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS Amy McClure

(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.**

*HYMN 105: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ES IST EIN ROS'

BLESSING OF THE CANDLES — Joani Hughes

(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: *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* — arr. C. Burton

Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir

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.**

*CAROL: *View the Present through the Promise* — AR HYD Y NOS

Sanctuary Choir

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again. Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again. Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing in the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again. Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again. Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again. Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving be a sign to all the living. Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — David Hughes

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: Mark 13:24-37 — Emily Hull McGee

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Interrupting Attention* — Emily Hull McGee

*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.

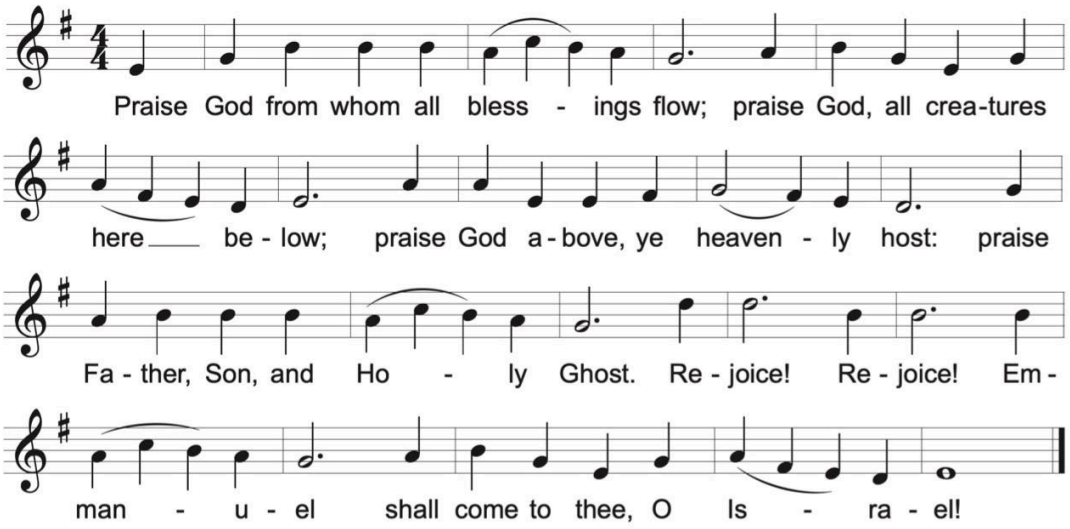
*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE — Karen Lefler

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 — Mary Kaylor

*DOXOLOGY — VENI EMMANUEL



*BENEDICTION — Emily Hull McGee

POSTLUDE: *X. Noel Suisse* — L.C. Daquin

Jacob Hill, Organ

*Those who are able will please stand.

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes and Crucifer:	Abigail Townsend, Casey Masten, Lorelei Clark
Deacon of the Week:	Karen Lefler and Rick Matthews
Greeters:	Caleb Sabbagh and Rob Norwood
Safety Team:	Terry Lefler, Amy Myers, Caleb Sabbagh
Streaming and Sound Team:	Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder, Jeff Burchette, Judy Eustice, Julie Hall, Amber Myers, Meredith Parker

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.

LISTENING ASSIST AVAILABLE

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

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

Thank you so much for supporting the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! To be included in your 2026 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!

FIRST BAPTIST
ON FIFTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Hopeful Interruption
Advent Worship at First Baptist on Fifth
Of the mission of the church, Rwandan priest and theologian Emmanuel Katongole said this: "the church is called to be a hopeful interruption in the death-bound reality of a broken world." The seeds of that stirring call were planted in the most hopeful interruption of all: Jesus of Nazareth, born as Love-made-flesh in a despairing world. In a season where heartache and fear spiral too quickly, our Advent worship will summon us with the story of Christ interrupting with light and life for all the world.

December 6 | Second Sunday of Advent
Interrupting Pathways
Mark 1:1-8
Communion Sunday

December 13 | Third Sunday of Advent
Service of Lessons & Carols

December 20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Interrupting Expectations
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 | Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm
Interrupting Darkness
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

December 4 | YA Christmas Dinner Party
Join our annual Christmas dinner! We'll gather at the home of Holly & Jeff Kessler on Friday, December 4 at 6:30pm. Bring a gift card, no more than $20, to your favorite local business for an exchange. Dinner will be provided. Let Mary know if you plan to attend!

December 9 | OA Annual Christmas Lunch
Please join us on Wednesday, December 9 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! Please sign up in your newsletter.

Seeking Donations | Una Bendición
The Missions Committee invites donations of cereal and bouillon cubes for Una Bendición, which connects Spanish-speaking families with community resources. Place donations by the Crisis Control bins. Thanks!

December 11 | Women's Ornament Exchange
Join us for the annual Ornament Exchange in The Commons on Friday, December 11 from 6:30-8:30pm. 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 13 | Youth Christmas Matinee
All youth are invited for a matinee screening of a Christmas movie here at First on Fifth following worship on Sunday, December 13. Lunch & snacks will be served. Parent pickup at 3pm. For more information, contact kyle@firstonfifth.org.

December 13 | Christmas Open House
All are welcome to share in the merriment and fellowship of the season at our Churchwide Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 13, from 4-6pm! 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!
The Fellowship Ministry Team invites YOU to join us on a wagon ride with your First on Fifth family. We'll enjoy time together on Friday, December 18 at 6 pm as we travel through the Tanglewood Festival of Lights. Cost is $5/person. Sign up today in your newsletter!

December 20 | Pictures with Santa!
We are so grateful that Santa has agreed to show up for pictures with your kids/families again this year! He will be set up in the Commons immediately following worship on December 20. Make plans to join us! For more information, contact amy@firstonfifth.org.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES
Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministries of First Baptist on Fifth through your financial gifts! As we approach year-end, please review the December 31 contribution deadlines for inclusion in your 2026 contribution statement. For important details regarding hand-delivered gifts, mailed contributions, and stock transfers, please see the year-end giving information in our church newsletter. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, November 29
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)*

MONDAY, November 30

TUESDAY, December 1
10:00 am Care Notes Ministry *(Commons)*
8:00 pm Evening Prayer (*online)*

WEDNESDAY, December 2
11:00 am Staff Meeting *(Conference)*
5:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal (*Sanctuary)*
5:30 pm SPIRE Ringers Rehearsal (*Music Suite)*
6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Choir Room)*

THURSDAY, December 3
10:00 am Downtown Walking Group *(offsite)*

FRIDAY, December 4
6:00 pm Conversations Class Christmas Party (*Baraca)*
6:30 pm YA Christmas Party (*offsite)*
7:00 pm Board Game Affinity Group *(Commons)*

SATURDAY, December 5

SUNDAY, December 6
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)*

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

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control
The gift for November is Baking Items. Please drop off donations in the first-floor bins. Thank you!

CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Emily Hull McGee
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BOLD **LOVE**. BOUNDLESS **COMPASSION.**