

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2018

Eleven O'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude “Prelude on *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*” John Rutter

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship.”

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jun and Tomoko Matsuzaki

LEADER: Without joy, our lives fail to point to the presence of Christ within us. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Happiness is contingent upon the circumstances of our lives while joy only requires an awareness of God’s presence and love. As we continue this Advent season, we wait in joyful anticipation for a deeper awareness of the Christ who is with us and we seek to live in a way that allows joy to spill over into the lives of others.

PEOPLE: **We light this candle to symbolize the joy we have in Christ’s presence. We gather to share this joy with one another.**

(The third candle is lit.)

The Invocation

Holy God, you fill us with joy over and over again. You give us what we need, if not always what we want, and most of all, you give us yourself in love. We trust that you will come to us again this year. In fact, you are with us now. Heighten our awareness of your presence and deepen our experience of joy that we may offer praise worthy of the Christ who comes and bear fruit in your realm. Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise, 146

ANTIOCH

“Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”

The Greeting of Worshipers

Leah Reed

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p. 767)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 4:4-7 (p. 955)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

The Gospel

Luke 3:7-18 (p. 834)

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*The Hymn of Devotion, 332

ELLACOMBE

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

The Homily

“Welcome or Not” Christopher Chapman

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Prayer of Response¹

God, our Judge and our Guide, you sent your messenger John to cry out to those who fail to heed your word. Give us hearts tuned to your voice and songs to sing your praise. Forgive us for following crooked paths, and put us on your straight highway. Be our companion through the valleys and keep us from stumbling in rough places. Make a way for us in the wilderness of our distress. Help us to determine what is best so that at Christ’s coming we may be pure and blameless, for your glory and praise. Amen.

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

*The Hymn of Discipleship, 135

HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*The Offertory Prayer

Jess Helms

The Offertory

“In Quiet Joy”

Marcel Dupre

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

PUER NOBIS

To you, O Christ, all praises be whose advent sets your people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore!

Gloria

by John Rutter

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae
voluntatis.

Laudamus te, Benedicimus te,
Adoramus te, Glorificamus te,
Gratias agimus tibi
Propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth peace to people of
good will.

We praise you, We bless you,
We adore you, We glorify you,
We give thanks to you
On account of your great glory.
Glory to God in the highest!

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Domine Deus, Filius Patris,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis, suscipe
deprecationem nostrum,
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
Miserere nobis.

Lord God, King of Heaven,
God the Father omnipotent.
Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten son.
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Lord God, Son of the Father,
Lord God, King of Heaven,
Who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us,
receive our prayer,
Who sits at the right hand of the Father,
Have mercy on us.

Soloists: Catherine Carter, Elaine Holley, and Amelia Wade

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
Tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum sancto Spiritu
In Gloria Dei Patris,
Amen.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Amen.

Because you alone are holy,
You alone are Lord,
You alone are most high, Jesus Christ,
Together with the Holy Spirit
In the glory of God the Father,
Amen.
Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

*The Postlude

“From Heaven Above”

Wilbur Held

*The congregation may stand.

¹From *Season of Light and Hope*, by Blair Gilmer Meeks.
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The DEACON ON CALL is Jess Helms. A 21-year member, Jessica serves as assistant church clerk, as a leader of the high school girls’ Bible study, and as a chaperone with our youth group. She is also a member of the ITC Board and the Grains of Sand Sunday School Class. Jessica and her husband Chase have one son, Asher.

THOSE WHO ARE VISITING are invited to the Gathering Room after worship to receive information about the church. Use the door to the left of the pulpit; church members will greet you.

Brass Ensemble

Mark Beamish, Trumpet I
Adam White, Trumpet II
Anthony Lacivita, Trumpet III
Darrion Keck, Trumpet IV

Jesse Rackley, Trombone I
Max Goodman, Trombone II
Scott Sweeney, Bass Trombone
Tony Granados, Tuba

SYMPATHY to **Beth McCollum** on the November 30 death of her mother, Polly McCollum of Burlington.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, the day on which joy is the theme. This theme is reflected in the Advent candle liturgy (and the readers for the day, Japanese Pastor Jun and his wife Tomoko), the readings from Zephaniah and Philippians, the hymns and prayers, and John Rutter's *Gloria*. The reading from Luke may seem out of place on such a joyful day in which we celebrate the good news of a savior's birth, but the central character of this text, John the Baptist, will try to explain why he belongs on this special day through a dramatic homily. We are sent forth to live in such a way that helps others claim the authentic joy of this season.

TODAY, 1st-5th graders are remaining in the children's suite, experiencing worship by reflecting on and responding to our scripture lesson through different art mediums. Visiting children may join us in Room 224.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Gathering Room. An usher can provide a device for you.

REACHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER; REACHING UP TO TOUCH GOD: What's your favorite part of FBC Raleigh? Is it a small group, or a portion of worship? Is it a mission or outreach team? Hanging of the Greens or Wednesday night supper? Every week hundreds of people are touched by the ministries of our wonderful church, and everything we do is possible because of generous gifts and faithful tithing. Please help us prepare for 2019 by returning your pledge card to the church office. (You may also pledge online at: bit.ly/FBC-pledge.) As of December 12, 143 pledge cards totaling \$889,184 have been received.

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. We have received \$3,332 toward our goal of \$20,000.

MEAL RESERVATIONS may be made on the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org) under the Food and Faith section, by email (firstbaptist@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the office (919-832-4485), all by **noon on Mondays**. Menu: Roast Beef, Potatoes, Carrots, Mixed Veggies, Salad and Bread. Children's Menu: Chicken Nuggets.

CHURCH CONFERENCE will be held this Wednesday, December 19, at 6:15 p.m.

DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT: We are collecting money to purchase sweatshirts to be given out at the Raleigh Men's Shelter on Christmas morning. Make checks payable to FBC and indicate "Christmas Morning Breakfast" on the memo line. Place monetary donations in the offering plate or send to the church office. Volunteers are also needed on Christmas morning to help load, serve, and hand out gifts. To volunteer, please sign up on the website (www.fbcraleigh.org). For information, contact Leah Reed (lreed@fbcraleigh.org) or Dan Roberts (danrobts@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24. This service will include scripture, carols, and celebration of the Lord's Supper. Children are welcome.

Calendar Highlights December 16-23, 2018

Sun, December 16
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service (S)
Children's Worship (224)
Japanese Worship (227)
12:15 Deacons' Meeting (220)

Mon, December 17
9:30 Weekday Preschool
11:00 Sisters in Grace (P)

Tues, December 18
9:30 Weekday Preschool
9:00 Staff Breakfast (L)
10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (CR)
10:30 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
6:00 Theology on Tap (Raleigh Times)
7:15 High School Bible Study (Helms' home)

Wed, December 19
10:00 Clothing Ministry open
12:00 WMU Group 7 (P)
5:00 Meal served (FH)
5:45 ITC Board (110)
6:00 Announcements and Prayer Time (FH)
6:15 Church Conference (FH)
7:15 Sanctuary Choir (310)

Thu, December 20
7:00 Band of Brothers (CR)
11:00 Library Committee (L)
1:00 Clothing Ministry open

Sun, December 23
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service (S)
Japanese Worship (227)

⇒ CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on December 24 and 25 and on January 1.

⇒ CLOTHING MINISTRY will be closed December 26 through January 3.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
99 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603
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Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor	Lynn Lingafelt, Children
Trey Davis, Youth/College	Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor
J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus	Leah Anderson Reed, Community
Wayne Hager, Church Administrator	Mary Alice Seals, Music/Senior Adults
Donna G. Jolly, Organist	

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 16, 2018

*"I am the Alpha and Omega," says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*

Revelation 1:8