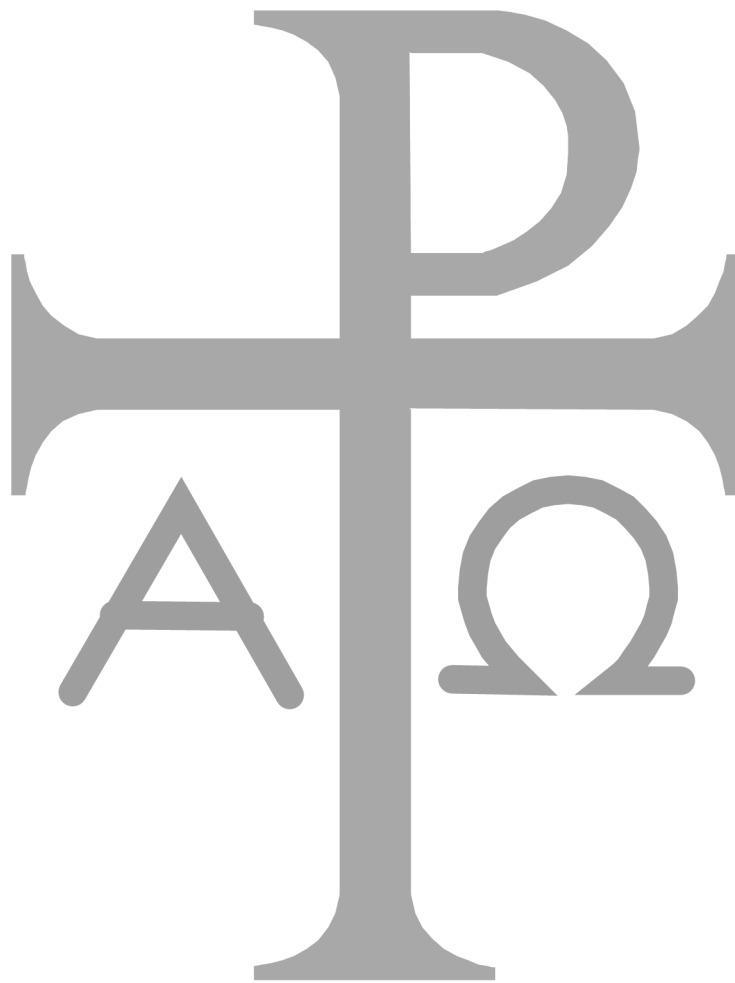


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 13, 2020

*"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

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the third Sunday of Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of the Messiah. We continue to prepare our hearts with hymns of praise, prayers of confession, and the lighting of an Advent candle. The texts all point to hope in times of struggle and this hope is rooted in the promise of a new thing God will do. The sermon provides a first-person reflection on the reading from Isaiah which makes audacious claims about what the Spirit of God will do for a people returning home from exile. It is a message that not only deepens our trust in God in these difficult days, but also raises a question about how the Spirit may be anointing us for audacious ministry.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Pastoral”
Sue Crocker, organ

G.F. Handel/arr. Robert Gower

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

Elaine Holley and Walter Perry

Reader 1: This is the third Sunday of Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *wait*. In this season we are called to do many things in the way of preparation and to give witness to our experience with Christ, but Christ does not come at our command. God comes to us in Christ when God is ready. So, Advent is a time to wait, to prepare our hearts and to wonder what God has in store for us. The prophet Isaiah describes what we are waiting for with these words (Isaiah 35:1-10).

Reader 2:

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader 1: The first Advent candle burns as a sign of our willingness to prepare for the coming of God's reign in Christ. The second candle reminds us of our calling to give witness to our experience. We light the third candle today as an expression of our commitment to wait for God's new age, for Christ to be born anew in our hearts, for our prayers to be answered.

(Light candle)

Reader 2: (Let us pray) Holy God, you know how hard it is for us to wait. We want everything right now. Deepen our trust in you, that we may develop the patience to wait. Help us to use our time well as we prepare for the coming of the Christ, amen.

The Hymn of Praise

"When the King Shall Come Again"¹

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

1. When the King shall come a - gain, all his power re - veal - ing,
 2. In the des - ert trees take root fresh from God's cre - a - tion;
 3. Strength-en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts, be cheer - ful!
 4. There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,

splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing;
 plants and flowers and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion,
 God who comes for such as these seeks and saves the fear - ful;
 noth - ing e - vil or un - clean walks the road to Zi - on:

earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - trat - ed,
 riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing;
 deaf ears, hear the si - lent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;
 ran - somed peo - ple home - ward - bound all your prais - es voic - ing,

this is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
 val - leys, this is your new birth, moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
 blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing!
 see your Lord with glo - ry crowned, share in his re - joic - ing!

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Leah Reed

The Prayer of Confession (unison)²

In the stopping, in the pausing, in the quiet, we cannot avoid seeing who we are. Our faults, our lack of faith, our lack of vision and of action, our lack of trust in You — all bubble to the surface. You, God, see who we are and still stand by us, offering us hope and forgiveness. Help us here, help us now — to recognize that it was with us in mind that You sent the baby Jesus. It was with us in mind that He grew to live and die and rise again, because that's what You think we are worth. May Your love set us free this day and always.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Act of Praise³

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!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lynn Lingafelt

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

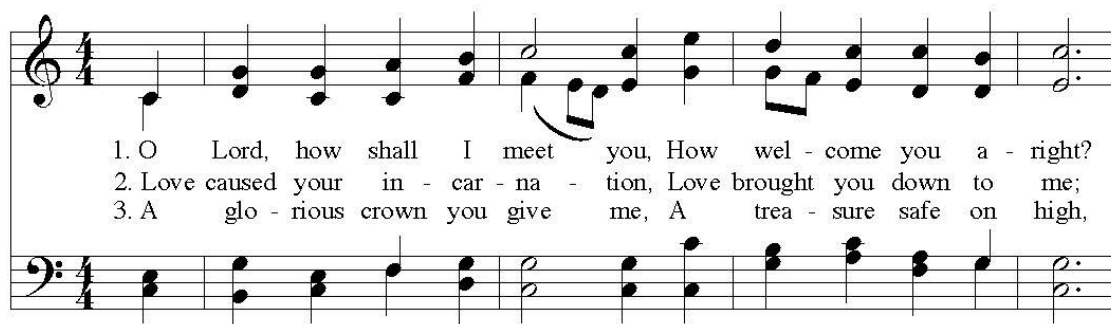
**Our Father,
who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

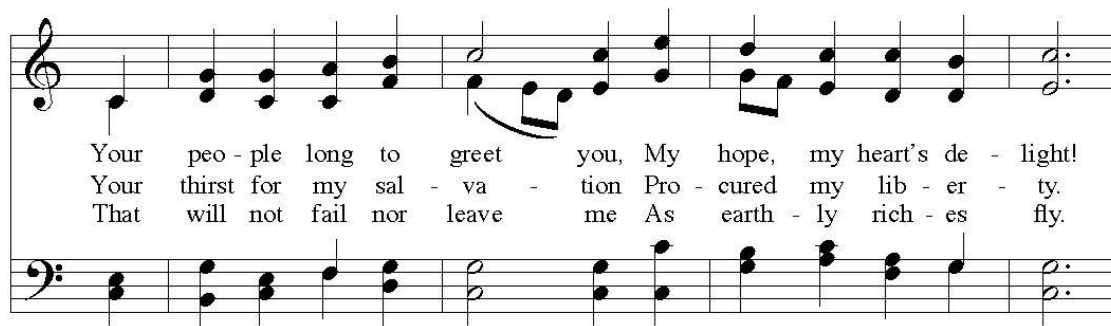
¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come you a - right?
 2. Love caused your in - car - na - tion, Love brought you down to me;
 3. A glo - rious crown you give me, A trea - sure safe on high,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 That will not fail nor leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, A lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, That led you to em - brace
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For you with prais - es new,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please you best.
 In love all loves ex - cel - ling Our lost and fall - en race.
 And from your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Musical Reflection

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Libby Barnes, bell soloist

arr. Linda Lamb

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

“Let All Together Praise Our God”
Sue Crocker, organ

Arr. Paul Manz

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²www.churchofscotland.org.uk, adapted. Used with permission.

³The tune and text of “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” and “O Lord, How Shalt I Meet You?” are in the public domain.

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There will be a virtual Church Conference via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. The link will be sent out by email.

Sympathy to **Annie Maloney** on the December 8 death of her grandfather, Edward Copeland.

Our annual stewardship emphasis continues with the theme *In the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord... And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed*. Please help us to meet our budget goal by returning your pledge card to the church office (you may also pledge online at: <https://fbcraleigh.org/pledgecard/>). As of December 10, we have received 146 pledges totaling \$1,036,361 for the 2021 budget.

End-of-year giving: Please continue to be faithful to your financial stewardship commitment. Your generous support toward this year’s budget will allow us to end the year with a solid base on which to begin 2021. Year-end contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31.

There is no better gift than to share the love of Jesus Christ to the world. One hundred percent of our offering sends CBF field personnel to share this love both here at home and in foreign lands. When we give to the offering for Global Missions, we help plant new churches and share the hope of Christ with people who have never heard the Gospel, we offer food and teach children how to succeed in school, and help refugees adapt and thrive in their new homes. Please give prayerfully to the CBF Global Mission Offering.

Calendar Highlights • December 13–19, 2020

Sunday, December 13

- 10:00 6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
- 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- High School Sunday School (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 11:00 Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)
- 4:00 3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 5:30 Deacons' Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, December 14

- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 15

- 10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)
- 11:00 Open Sanctuary (by registration)
- 5:00 Open Sanctuary (by registration)
- 6:00 Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- High School Bible Study (FH/302)
- 6:15 Middle School Small Group (Zoom or 1107 Marlowe Road)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Wednesday, December 16

- 5:30 Church Conference (Zoom)
- Mission Friends All Mission Night (Tucker yard)

Thursday, December 17

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 11:00 Open Sanctuary (by registration)
- 5:00 Open Sanctuary (by registration)

The Greening of the Church

The fresh flowers, wreaths, garland, and trees that adorn our sanctuary and building are given to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of these loved ones and friends.

The three wreaths on the rail in front of the church are given in loving memory of Dr. Clifford Byrum and Ruby Byrum by their family.

The wreaths on the sanctuary doors are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brantley Sr., Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brantley Jr, Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Castlebury, and John C. Brantley IV, by John C. Brantley III.

The Advent wreath is given in honor of our grandchildren, Emily and Matthew, and their parents, Alan and Kimberly Taylor, by Grammy and Granddad.

The center wreath on the choir loft rail is given in loving memory of Mary Powell Ward and William Titus Ward, M.D., by their daughter Mary Powell Ward White and grandchildren: Mary Boney and Dunlop White III, and their families.

The wreath on the left choir loft door is given in grateful honor of Sue Crocker by the Sanctuary Choir.

The wreath on the right choir loft door is given in loving memory of Scott Lingafelt.

The two wreaths on the church office doors are given in memory of Madge and O.H. Dillard by their twelve disciples.

The side wreath on the choir loft rail is given in memory of Daddy Ree, Mama Nette, Nana, and Da by their grandchildren, J.D. and Sarah Catherine Rhodes.

The side wreath on the choir loft rail is given in memory of Ed Vick by Laura Anne Vick and daughters Jennifer, Carolyn, and Elizabeth.

The wreaths on the Infant Toddler Center entrance of the Lewis Education Building are given in loving memory of Julia C. Read by Vann and Jody Langston and Julia's grandchildren: Margaret and Jim.

The wreaths on the Edenton Street doors of the Lewis Education Building are given in memory of Madge Dillard, O.H. Dillard Jr, Helen J. Davis, Norman Earl Davis Jr, Helen D. Smith, Charles W. Smith, Catherine C. Davis, Roger Allen Gregg Jr, and Dr. Roger Allen Gregg Sr, by their family.

The wreaths on the west parking lot doors of the Lewis Education Building are given in honor of their past and present Sunday School teachers by the Brewer Johnson Class.

Two pew wreaths are given in memory of their parents, Lillian and William Dickens and Mary Kellam and Jimmy Hollis, by Kent and Carolyn Dickens.

Five pew wreaths are given in loving memory of Margaret Morton by Vann and Jody Langston.

In Honor of:

Their grandparents: Shirley and John Hobson, Colleen and Bob Bradley
 Their great-grandmother, Joan Hobson
 Their great-grandfather, Bill Bradley
 Asher and Ryder Helms
 Fannie Memory Mitchell
 Bill and Edith Simpson
 Danny Thomerson and Dean Blakeley
 Raymond B. Ellis (Daddy)
 Her brother, Barry Ellis, whom she misses every day
 Greg Flowers
 Sonia Moore
 Caralie Nelson Brown
 Carolyn Crutchfield and family
 Max and Doris Baldwin
 Rance and Betty Henderson
 Lauren, Nick, Caroline, and Savannah Bradley
 His mother, Joan Hobson
 Our teachers
 All youth and children's choir alumni and current members with whom
 she has had the privilege to make music
 Greg and Marchelle Flowers
 Charles and Jamie Petty, with love
 The Brewer Johnson Sunday School Class
 All her children and their families
 Carolyn and Kent Dickens
 Linda and Sam Carothers
 Bonnie Baker
 Zach Padget, Alison Coppock, and Jack Edward Padget
 Myra Brickell

Given By:

Caroline and Savannah Bradley
 Caroline and Savannah Bradley
 Caroline and Savannah Bradley
 Sterling and Myra Brickell
 Matt and Anne Bullard
 Matt and Anne Bullard
 Matt and Anne Bullard
 Rhonda Faucette
 Rhonda Faucette
 Marchelle Flowers
 Greg and Marchelle Flowers
 Nancye Gaj
 The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew,
 Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy
 Their family
 David and Sherri Henderson
 John and Shirley Hobson
 John and Shirley Hobson
 John Hiott Fellowship Class

Rhonda Lowe

Sonia Moore

Allison, Tanner, Ana, Caleb, Tom, Ben, and Dylan

Nancy Moore Phillips

Jeanie Scott

Jeanie Scott

Jeanie Scott

Linda Sears

Mary A. Tetro

Mary A. Tetro

In Memory of:

Charles Reed
 Jerry T. Blanchard Sr. (Daddy, Granddaddy)
 Joe Overman (Papa and Daddy)
 Their great-grandmother, Polly Wilkins Garrard
 Their great-grandfathers, Edward Hobson and John Wilkins

Given by:

LaCount and Anna Anderson

Carol, Brantley, Brantley Jr., and Charles Blanchard

Carol, Brantley, Brantley Jr., and Charles Blanchard

Caroline and Savannah Bradley

Caroline and Savannah Bradley

| | |
|---|--|
| Patsy Kelly | Matt and Anne Bullard |
| Jim Clary | Margaret Clary |
| The parents of Margaret and Jim Clary | Margaret Clary |
| H.F., Virginia, and Forest Flowers | Greg and Marchelle Flowers |
| Dick Moore | Greg and Marchelle Flowers |
| Margaret Perry | Jen Foster |
| Jim, Penny, and Jimmy | Peggy Frisbie |
| Steve Gaj | Nancye Gaj |
| Dr. Raymond Bryan Brown | Nancye Gaj |
| Raymond Bryan Brown, Jr. | Nancye Gaj |
| Their mothers, Mildred Kimbrough and Margaret Goolsby | Chet and Kitty Goolsby |
| Evelyn and Douglas Hager | The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Lauren, Cody, and Adalee Joy |
| Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager | The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Lauren, Cody, and Adalee Joy |
| Dr. Graham Crutchfield | The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Lauren, Cody, and Adalee Joy |
| Anna Helms | Chase and Jessica Helms |
| Scott Lingafelt | Chase and Jessica Helms |
| Blayne Brown | Chase and Jessica Helms |
| Their deceased teachers | John Hiott Fellowship Class |
| Their parents | John and Sheila Hite |
| Their fathers, Edward Hobson and John Wilkins | John and Shirley Hobson |
| Her mother, Polly Wilkins Garrard | John and Shirley Hobson |
| Her parents, Harllee and Pauline Jobe | Mary Anne Jobe |
| Her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson | Emily Johnson |
| Her grandparents, Clarence and Emily Perry | Emily Johnson |
| Penny Frisbie | Emily Johnson |
| C.M. (Mack) Conway | Mike and Denise King and Lauren Teague |
| Dr. Frank Pollock | Chuck and Liz Ladd |
| Ray Ladd | Chuck and Liz Ladd |
| Jim Clary | Clint and Betsy Neal |
| Mary Gupton, Bennie Ray Gupton, and Robert Page | Paula Page |
| His parents, Robert H. and Lillie Mae Phillips | Bobby Phillips |
| Her parents, Jack and Zua Moore | Nancy Moore Phillips |
| Elizabeth H. Chamblee | Robert Ponton |
| Judge Edwin S. Preston Jr. | Dorothy Preston |
| Doris Knott Talley | Dorothy Preston |
| Her daughter, Christy Alston | Linda Roberts |

Earl and Ann Stephenson
Bill and Helen Rusher
Robert Scott
Marian and James Alford
Mary and Joseph Scott
Maurice Baker
Joey, Raihan, and Omar Awaida
Grandma Betty Shea
Nonna Selna
Elmore Snead
Louise B. Brown and Phil Brown
Bill and Pat Stahmer
Penny Frisbie
William Titus Ward Jr.

John and Mary Nash Rusher
John and Mary Nash Rusher
Jeanie Scott
Jeanie Scott
Jeanie Scott
Linda Sears
Mike and Courtney Selna
Mike and Courtney Selna
Mike and Courtney Selna
Brenda Snead
The Stahmer Family
The Stahmer Family
Mary A. Tetro
Mary Powell Ward White

