

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812

*Gloria
in excelsis
& Deo*

December 27, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 27, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the first Sunday after Christmas, part of a twelve-day, ongoing celebration of the Incarnation. While our cultural tendency is to build up to one day and then move on, the liturgical calendar invites us to embrace Advent as a time of patient waiting for a celebration of Christmas which requires more than one day. Indeed, the Good News of God's love for the world permeates our lives throughout the year. We celebrate this Good News today with familiar hymns, inspiring instrumental music, and heartfelt prayers. We also gladly welcome to the pulpit Pastor Emeritus Dr. J. Daniel Day. "The sermon," Dr. Day says, "considers the ancient promises of God that resurfaced at Bethlehem and that continue to sustain us as we enter a new year." As we depart, we are invited to live with a hopeful spirit shaped by these promises.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude "People, Look East" arr. Dale Wood
Sue Crocker, organ

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 Introit "I Saw Three Ships" arr. Katrina Wreede
Elaine Holley, violin

The Call to Worship and Invocation (responsive)¹ Michael Hood

LEADER: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

PEOPLE: **You crept in beside us.**

LEADER: And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

PEOPLE: **Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?**

LEADER: Will you come into the darkness of today's world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end or that food will come or that a government will change or that the Church cares?

PEOPLE: **Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?**

LEADER: Will you come into the quietness of this city, not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung, the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor's face says it all?

PEOPLE: **Will you come into that darkness, and do something different, not to distract, but to embrace your people? And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?**

LEADER: We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be, but because the fullness our lives long for depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us, when you came, wearing no more than diapers, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

PEOPLE: **Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you, and do something different?**

LEADER: When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.

PEOPLE: **You crept in beside us.**

ALL: **Do the same this Christmas, Lord.
Do the same this Christmas. Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Refrain

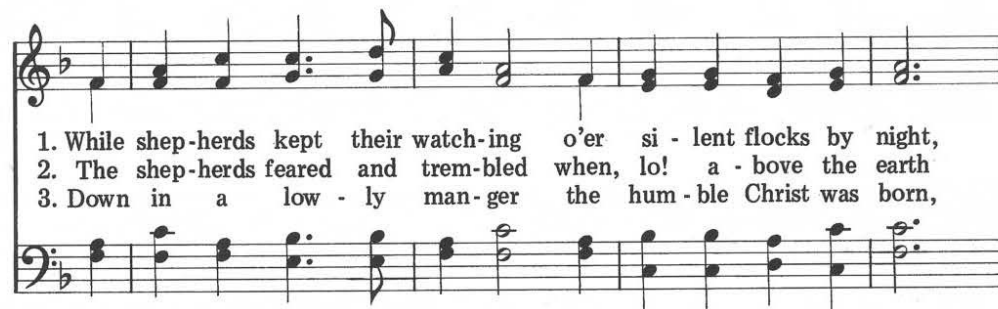


Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.

Fine



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

D.C.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 61:10 — 62:3

Leah Reed

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.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Morning Prayer

Lynn Lingafelt

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of
 3. Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 grew, he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and
 love; for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall: with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew: and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he has gone.

The Sermon

“The Unseen Story”

J. Daniel Day

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Musical Reflection

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”
John Holley, viola

arr. Katrina Wreede

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

Christopher Chapman

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

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
Sue Crocker, organ

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

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The tune and text of “Once in Royal David’s City” are in the public domain.

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We welcome J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus, as our preacher this morning.

Sympathy to **Wyatt Yelverton** on the December 22 death of his father, Harold Yelverton.

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 22, we have received 155 pledges totaling \$1,076,661 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. As of December 22, we have received \$4,605.

Hurricane Relief Offering: As happened last year, instead of the usual breakdown for the fall NC Mission Offering, all money collected will go CBF Global Disaster Response to help our neighbors who are victims of hurricanes. As of December 22, we have received \$3,640.

Calendar Highlights • December 27–January 2, 2020

Sunday, December 27

11:00 Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)

Monday, December 28

Church Office Closed (Christmas)

Tuesday, December 29

10:00 Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library or Zoom)

7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School (Virtual)

Friday, January 1

Church Office Closed (New Year's Day)