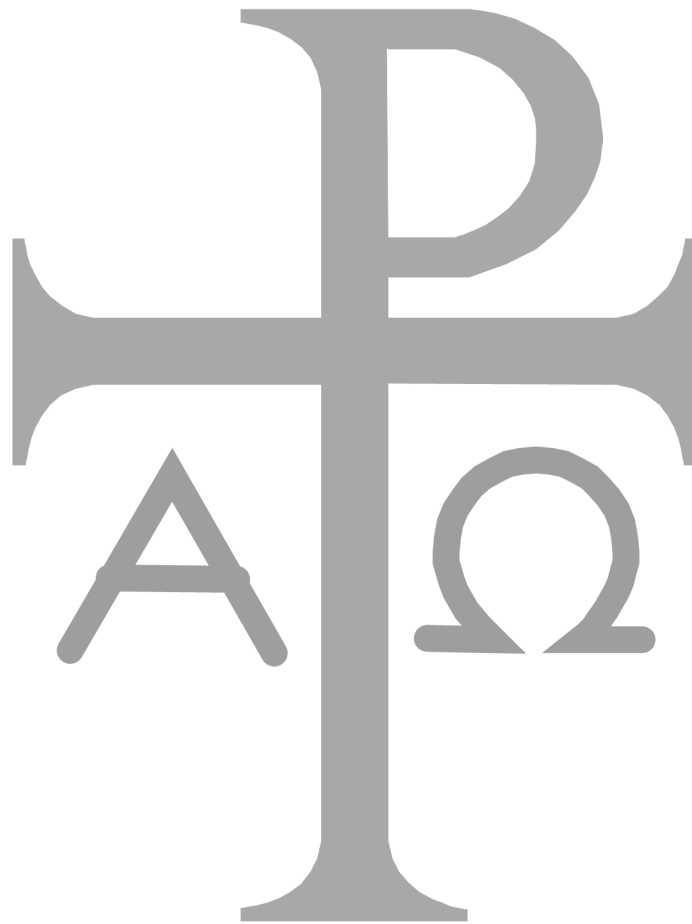


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



November 28, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, a four-week season of preparation for the coming of the Messiah and the beginning of a new Christian year. It is a season of penitence and reflection. Thus, we wear purple stoles and include time for confession and assurance. But it is also a season of expectation and preparation, patient waiting for the wondrous new thing God might do among us. So, we light the first Advent candle and sing hymns of hope and fulfillment. The sermon explores the apocalyptic images found in the reading from Luke which may seem out of place today. But Advent focuses not only on the first coming of the Christ into a Bethlehem stable, but on the second coming as well, no matter how we view this reality — as a future cosmic event or an ongoing experience. And while the images may appear to portend doom and gloom, they actually express profound hope, the hope that God has the final word on all of creation. “O Come, O come, Emmanuel,” we sing, trusting that God continues to come in every generation, bringing healing and redemption.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

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 Prelude

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Chuck Marohnic, arr.

Maureen Howell, piano

The Lighting of the Advent Candle†

Warren and Maureen Howell

LEADER: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so, we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, healing, and the well-being of all creation.

(The first candle is lit.)

ALL: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

The Invocation

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un -
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and
 ad - vent here; and drive a - way the shades of night, and
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -
 close the path to mis - er - y.
 all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn, 12th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1851; st. 5, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases

VENI EMMANUEL
 8.8.8.8.8.8.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

“O come, O come, Emmanuel,” we sing and pray, but we are not ready to recognize, much less embrace, your presence. We look for signs in the heavens when you have already entered our hearts. We wait for the world to change as you wait for us to join you in changing it. We search for hope while you shape a future world where justice and peace prevail and there is nothing that can separate us from your love. Forgive us, O God, for our limited vision. Open our hearts that we may receive your love more fully. Transform our lives that we may live with the kind of hope that is in touch with reality yet ultimately defined by your gift of eternal life.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The Act of Praise

*Choir sings first time, then congregation sings.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God. Glo-ry in the high - est!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Jacques Berthier, Taizé, 1978

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

The Anthem

“The Glory of the Father”
Egil Hovland

Sanctuary Choir

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.
In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.
In Him was life; and the life was the light of all.
He came to his own and his own received him not. (*from John 1*)

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Sarah Woodard

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2. Born thy peo - ple to de-liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Music used by permission of Oxford University Press

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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

“When the King Shall Come Again”

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!

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Choral Response

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*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

"Organ Motet on *Veni Emmanuel*"
John Hebden Schefner

Maureen Howell, organ

*The congregation may stand.

†Adapted from the Process & Faith web site, www.processandfaith.org. Used with permission.

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The Deacon on Call is Sarah Woodard. An 11-year member, Sarah is a member of the Food Trailer board and is in the Journey Sunday School class. She is married to Agnes Stevens and has two children, Jed and Macon.

The sanctuary flowers are provided in loving memory of Allen and Jane Burris by Joe, Cece, Hannah, and Gordon Middleton and David Burris.

Our annual stewardship emphasis with the theme “First Fruits” has begun. We encourage you to respond by November 30 by mailing in a pledge card or by pledging online. As of November 23, we have received 48 pledges totaling \$336,686.

The State Missions Offering goal is \$10,000; we have received \$8,100 so far. Your gifts will help those in need by supporting various agencies including Baptist Retirement Homes, NC Baptist Hospital, Baptist Children’s Homes, and Baptists on Mission.

Visit the table in the Lewis building lobby for the church library book give-away. Please feel free to take one or more books the library can no longer use.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, December 1; meal served at 5:00 p.m., program at 6:15 p.m. This week, we’ll be preparing for Hanging of the Greens!

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485), all by noon on Mondays. Menu for December 1: Mexican casserole and corn.

During November, our mission project is collecting food (granola bars, cereal, juice boxes, or canned meat/fish) for the Raleigh branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Place your contributions in the marked drawer of the Lewis Lobby cabinet.

The Clothing Ministry is in dire need of children's coats, all sizes (infants through youth). Place your donations in the bin at the back parking lot door.

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m., followed by a reception. Remember a loved one with a donation toward the purchase of holiday decorations for our sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Forms — found in Sunday School boxes, on our website, or in the *Rose Window Weekly* — must be received with payment by Friday, December 3.

With this year being different from years past, our Social committee has been working hard to make the Hanging of the Greens reception a success. Instead of serving savory foods and sweets, we will only have a sweet reception. Each person will be offered pre-bagged cookies and a small water to go. We are offering the Garth for those who wish to mingle in a safer environment. If you can make 2-3 dozen cookies for the reception, please sign up through your Sunday School class. Contact Lynn Loomis (lynn.loomis@gmail.com) with any questions.

Calendar Highlights
November 28–December 5

Sunday, November 28

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (S & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (302)
- 5:00 Youth Choir (302)
- 6:30 Youth Choir Pizza Party (Mellow Mushroom, Peace Street)

Monday, November 29

- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)

Tuesday, November 30

- 10:00 Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 7:30 Pathfinders Sunday School Class (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 1

- 5:00 Meal Served (Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Music for Children
- 6:15 Hanging of the Greens Prep
- 6:45 Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 2

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Saturday, December 4

- 10:00 Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 5

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (S & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (302)
- 6:00 Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 Hanging of the Greens Reception (Fellowship Hall)