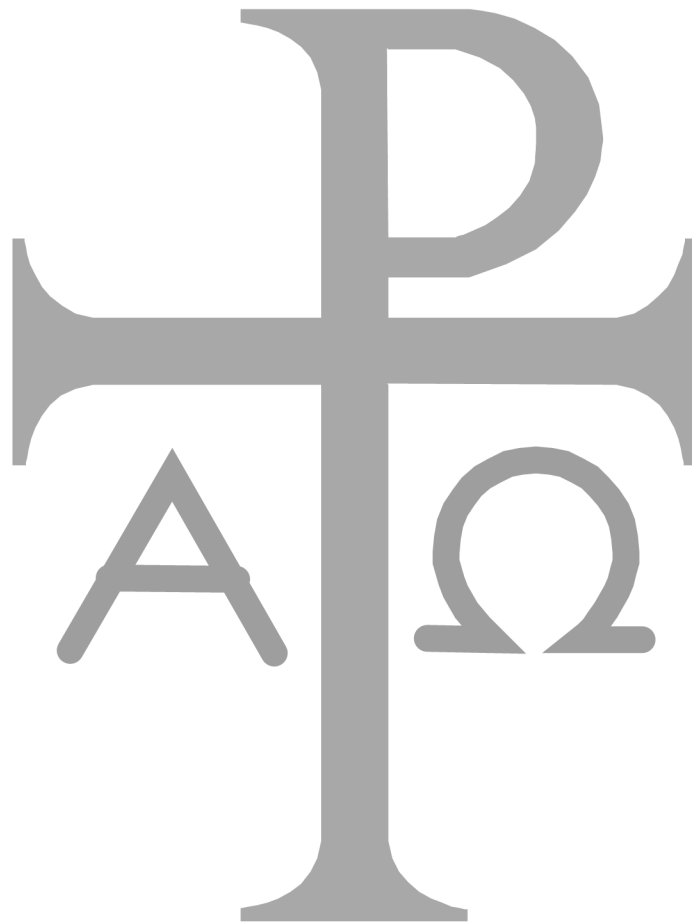


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 12, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Christ. We continue our preparations by lighting an Advent candle — this week the candle of joy — making time for confession, and singing hymns of praise. Two of the three lectionary texts clearly point us in the direction of today's theme of joy, but the third text, from Luke, is an outlier, or at least it appears to be. The sermon addresses a question raised by this reading about John the Baptizer's preaching, "Where is the joy?" We may be surprised by the possibility of joy emerging from a text that begins with the inflammatory claim, "You brood of vipers!" But then, this is a season of surprises. As we ponder our response to the good news, WMU Director Nancy Moore Phillips invites us to contribute to the Global Missions offering which supports CBF Field Personnel who embody God's surprising gift of joy for people around the world.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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 Canticle

"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"

Jack Noble White

REFRAIN (Leader, then All):

Isaiah 12:2,6

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be a -
fraid. For the Lord is my strong - hold and my
sure de-fense, and God will be my Sav - ior.

VERSE: Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion; ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

LEADER: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

(The third candle is lit.)

ALL: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 (1.) and heaven and na - ture sing,

(1.) and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719; para. of Psalm 98
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1848; based on G. F. Handel, 1742

ANTIOCH
 C.M.Repeats

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Crowds came to God's messenger, the man called John, and asked him what they should do. "Share whatever you have," he said. John's words call us to show by our lives that we have turned toward God and live in a community of love. Let us bring before God our concerns for our life together.

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of love, we have not always used our gifts for the common good: we have been impatient; we have grumbled against one another; we have often failed to hold fast to what is true; we have neglected to share all we have with those in need. Restore us and make us instruments of your peace. Keep us mindful of our baptism with your Holy Spirit into the communion of Christ Jesus. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Silent Confession

The Words of Assurance

God who is faithful will hear and forgive us. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (*Philippians 4:7*)

The Act of Praise (All sing)

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 Hebrew Bible

Zephaniah 3:14–20

David Kelley

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Glory to God”

Sanctuary Choir

J. S. Bach (from *Magnificat*)

Glory to God in the highest heaven. Hallelujah. O praise God’s holy name.

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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.**

The Meditation

“Voluntary on *Truro*”
Maureen Howell, arr.

Maureen Howell, organ

The Gospel

Luke 3:7–18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1 Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

6 King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is draw - ing
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for heaven's em -
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner pres - ence

12 near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1642
 trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863
 Music: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Where Is the Joy?”

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.

1. O lit - tle town of Beth-le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth-le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven!
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Music used by permission of Oxford University Press

FOREST GREEN
 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

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

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
Michael Burkhardt

Maureen Howell, organ

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is David Kelley. David has been a member of FBC since 1988 and is a member of the Sharing Thoughts Sunday School class. He and his wife, Lynn Marshbanks, have three grown children — Anna, Jonathan, and Jane.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the December 7 birth of Avery Michelle to parents Charlie and Charlotte Mercer, big brother Ford, and grandparents Ann and Tom Rollins.

Our annual stewardship emphasis with the theme “First Fruits”: please prayerfully consider your 2022 financial commitment and return your pledge card to the church office as soon as possible. As of December 9, 137 pledge cards totaling \$927,173 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 \$1,149 toward our goal of \$20,000.

Church Conference: Wednesday, December 15; meal served at 5:00 p.m., meeting at 6:15 p.m., in-person and on Zoom; see the *Rose Window Weekly* for the Zoom link.

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 15: curried vegetables with rice.

During December, our mission project is supporting our Clothing Ministry. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for their wish list of items and place your contributions in the bin inside the door of the rear parking lot.

The church-wide ski retreat is scheduled for January 7–9 at Pipestem and Winterplace, West Virginia. More information and the sign-up link may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. Contact Michael Hood (mhood@fbcraleigh.org) with any questions.

Mark your calendar now for the churchwide retreat to Fort Caswell on April 22–24. Details are forthcoming; watch for information in future issues of the *Rose Window Weekly* and the Sunday bulletin!

Calendar Highlights

December 12-19

Sunday, December 12

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship (302)
- 12:15 Deacons Meeting (220/Zoom)
- 12:30 Everette Miller Friendship Christmas Party
- 6:00 Youth Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 13

- 10:00 Clothing Ministry Open
- 5:30 ITC Board Meeting (Conference Room/Zoom)
- 6:00 Music Made in Heaven Rehearsal (Sanctuary Balcony)
- 6:15 Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 14

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

Wednesday, December 15

- 5:00 Meal Served (Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall)
- 6:15 Church Conference (Fellowship Hall)
(No Music and Missions for Children)
- 7:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room/Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 16

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:00 Christmas Cookie Decorating (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, December 19

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (Sanctuary & YouTube)
Japanese Worship/Potluck Luncheon (301/302)
- 6:30 Adult Choir Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)

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 their 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 right-side wreath on the choir loft rail is given in memory of Scott Lingafelt.

The left-side wreath on the choir loft rail is given in honor of their grandchildren, Asher and Ryder Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell.

The wreaths on the Clothing Ministry doors are given in memory of Daddy Ree, Mama Nette, Nana and Da by their grandchildren, J. D. and Sarah Catherine Rhodes.

The wreath on the State lot door is given in memory of Ed Vick by Laura Anne Vick and their daughters, Jennifer, Carolyn and Elizabeth.

The wreath on the left choir loft door is given in grateful honor of Warren and Maureen Howell by the Sanctuary Choir.

The wreath on the right choir loft door is given in loving memory of their parents, Mary Kellam and Jimmy Hollis and William and Lillian Dickens, by Carolyn and Kent Dickens.

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

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 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 the past and present Sunday School teachers of the Brewer Johnson Class

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

– December 2021



In Honor of:

Dr. Mary Alice Seals
George and Annette Barnes
Jess and Chase Helms
Fannie Memory Mitchell
Bill and Edith Simpson
Danny Thomerson and Dean Blakeley
Lorine Calloway
Willard and Mary Cobb
Charles and Frances Gillen
The Music Ministry at FBC
Greg Flowers
Sonia Moore
Caralie Nelson Brown
Carolyn Crutchfield and family

Lauren, Nick, Caroline, and Savannah Bradley
His mother, Joan Hobson
Their teachers
Her son, E. Scott Harlow
Fannie Memory Mitchell
Fannie Memory Mitchell
The Adult Choir
The Children's Choir
Their mother, Carmen Moncla Hiott
Bonnie Baker
Kent and Carolyn Dickens
Emma Catherine Drewry
Tallis Leighton Drewry
Poppy Rynn Stevens
Zach Padget, Alison Coppock, and Edward Padget
Myra Brickell

Given By:

Marie Andrews
Mike and Paula Barnes
Sterling and Myra Brickell
Matt and Anne Bullard
Matt and Anne Bullard
Matt and Anne Bullard
Her family
Britt and Ann Cobb
Britt and Ann Cobb
Betty and Austin Connors
Marchelle Flowers
Greg and Marchelle Flowers
Nancye Gaj
The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew,
Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy
Shirley and John Hobson
Shirley and John Hobson
John Hiott Fellowship Class
Brenda Jordan
Brenda Jordan
Lynn and Bill Loomis
Lynn and Bill Loomis
Lynn and Bill Loomis
Her children
Linda Sears
Berti Stevens
Berti Stevens
Berti Stevens
Berti Stevens
Mary A. Tetro
Mary A. Tetro

In Memory of: Given by:

Dr. John M. Lewis, Pastor Emeritus	Marie Andrews
Betty Austin and Janice Woodall	Steve and Denise Austin
Janet Logan Barnes	The Walt Barnes Family
Glenn Davis	Brantley and Lindsey Blanchard
Jerry T. Blanchard Sr. (Daddy, Granddaddy)	Brantley and Carol and family Blanchard
Joe Overman (Papa and Daddy)	Brantley and Carol and family Blanchard
Sterling and Myra's parents	Sterling and Myra Brickell
Patsy Kelly	Matt and Anne Bullard
Jim Clary	Margaret Clary
The parents of Margaret and Jim Clary	Margaret Clary
Nettie Cumbea	Valerie Cumbea
Raymond Cumbea	Valerie Cumbea
Phyllis Dance	Valerie Cumbea
Fannie Leggett	Valerie Cumbea
H.F., Ginny, and Forest Flowers	Greg and Marchelle Flowers
Dick Moore	Greg and Marchelle Flowers
Jim, Penny, and Jimmy	Peggy Frisbie
Steve Gaj	Nancye Gaj
Dr. Raymond Bryan Brown	Nancye Gaj
Raymond Bryan Brown, Jr.	Nancye Gaj
Evelyn and Doug Hager	The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy
Dr. Graham Crutchfield	The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy
Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager	The Hager Family: Wayne, Matthew, Nathan and Mary, Laura, Cody, and Adalee Joy
Blayne Brown	Chase and Jessica Helms
Anna Helms	Chase and Jessica Helms
Scott Lingafelt	Chase and Jessica Helms
Harold Yelverton and Durwood Pegram	Chase and Jessica Helms
Their deceased teachers	John Hiott Fellowship Class
Their parents	John and Sheila Hite
Her mother, Pauline Wilkins Garrard	John and Shirley Hobson
Sam Garrard	John and Shirley Hobson
Their fathers, Edward Hobson and John Wilkins	John and Shirley Hobson
Kay Huggins	Barbara Huggins
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

Emmett and Jane Noel	Wiley Jones
Her husband, John R. Jordan, Jr.	Brenda Jordan
Her mother, Sarah W. Moore	Brenda Jordan
Wilton and Evelyn Wheeley	Lynn and Bill Loomis
Their father, John Hiott	His children
Mary Denton Gupton, Bennie Ray Gupton, and Robert Page	Paula Gupton Page
His parents, Robert H. and Lillie Mae Phillips	Bobby Phillips
Her parents, Jack and Zua Moore	Nancy Moore Phillips
Kathy Mincey	Dan Roberts
Christy Alston	Linda Roberts
Earl and Ann Stephenson	John and Mary Nash Rusher
Bill and Helen Rusher	John and Mary Nash Rusher
Maurice Baker	Linda Sears
Patricia Motz-Frazier	Mike and Courtney Selna
Roberta O'Brien	Mike and Courtney Selna
Robert Thomas	Mike and Courtney Selna
Howard Shell	Frances Shell
Aileen Simpson	Edith and Steve Simpson
Elmore Snead	Brenda Snead
Jerry Hughes Stevens	Berti Stevens
Rolin Ashton Stevens	Berti Stevens
Penny Frisbie	Mary A. Tetro
Ed Vick	Laura Anne Vick and his daughters
Her brother, William Titus Ward Jr.	Mary Powell Ward White

