

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 18, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the final Sunday of preparation for the coming of the Christ. We begin with the celebration of baptism, a sacred sign that Christ comes not simply into the world in general but into our lives. We continue with the lighting of an Advent candle, prayers of confession, and songs of joyful anticipation. The sermon explores the reading from Matthew which, unlike Luke's version of the Christmas story, focuses more on Joseph. Yet like Mary, Joseph ultimately embraces God's vision for his life, though it is not what he had in mind. We are left to ponder God's calling in our lives, how we discern this calling, and how we embrace it.

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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 Prelude

"Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine"  
Kurt Kaiser

Maureen Howell

The Invitation to the Ritual

The Celebration of Baptism

Isabella Misaki Kumah

The Prayer of Blessing and Commitment

Lynn Lingafelt

Descant

2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the  
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of

strains pro - long? Say, what may the ti - dings be  
 heaven and earth! Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply  
 strains pro - long? Say, what may the ti - dings be  
 an - gels sing; come, a - dore on bend - ed knee  
 heaven and earth! Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

Refrain

which in - spire your heaven - ly song? Ah!  
 sing with us our Sav - ior's birth.

ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 which in - spire your heaven - ly song? Glo  
 Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
 sing with us our Sav - ior's birth.

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Ah!

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo -

WORDS: Traditional French carol, 18th C.; tr. *Crown of Jesus Music*, 1862, alt.  
 MUSIC: Traditional French melody, 18th C.; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956  
 Desc. © 1979, 1990 Hope Publishing Company

GLORIA  
 7.7.7.7.Ref.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Nathan Bacon and Dylan Tucker

The Introit

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Sanctuary Choir

J.S. Bach, arr.

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,  
 and usher in the morning.  
 O shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
 but hear the angel's warning.  
 This child, now weak in infancy,  
 our confidence and joy shall be,  
 the power of Satan breaking,  
 our peace eternal making.

Words: Johann von Rist, 1641  
 John Troutbeck, tr.  
 Music: Johann Schop, 1641

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Lynn Lingafelt

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Mysterious God, you come to us voicing your promise in the music of creation, in the voice of prophets, in the dreams of Joseph, embodied in the womb of Mary. We overlook your coming. You shower gifts upon your people and forgive their faults. We keep accounts and settle old scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of reconciliation and hope. We make war and call it peacemaking. You give us your Spirit, a source of confidence into our midst. We cause others to be restless, in our anxiety and self-concern. Have mercy upon us. Forgive and free us, that we may be renewed to serve your people with goodwill.**

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we have received grace.

**People: We are called to belong to Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We are called to be saints. Grace to you and peace.

**All: Glory to God in the highest.**

The Response (sung)

*Refrain*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the response 'Gloria in excelsis Deo'. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Glo - - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o.' The second staff is identical to the first, also with the lyrics 'Glo - - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o.' The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Christian Testament

Romans 1:1-7

Alan Taylor

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Good Christians All, Rejoice!”

Sanctuary Choir

Gilbert M. Martin, arr.

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath op'ed the heav'nly door,  
and all are blest for ever more.  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!

Words: 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin Carol  
John Mason Neale, tr. 1853, alt.  
Music: 14<sup>th</sup> cent. German Folk Melody

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 Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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



1. Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
2. Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
3. Love has come and nev - er will leave us!



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Words: Ken Bible, 1996  
Music: French Folk Melody

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"Making the Most of Our Time on Stage"

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 hands that first held Mary’s child were hard from working wood,  
from boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.  
this day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,  
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.**

**When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,  
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant’s name,  
the angel’s words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven’s height,  
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.**

**“This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,  
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone.”  
The tiny form in Joseph’s palms confirmed what he had heard,  
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven’s human word.**

**The tools which Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift  
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God’s gift.  
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who’s born today,  
but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in his way.**

Words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985

Music: English Folk Melody

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

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
Dale Wood

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Advent Candle Lighting Ritual is adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi, pp. 16-18 and the Prayer of Confession is adapted from *When We Gather*, James G. Kirk, © 1983 Geneva Press.

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The Deacon on Call is Alan Taylor. A 22-year member of First Baptist, Alan serves on the Worship Committee and the Student Ministries Council. He is a member of the Grains of Sand Sunday School class. Alan and his wife Kimberly have two children: Emily and Matthew.

Tonight at 5 pm, you are invited to join us as our children lead us in worship, recalling Jesus' birth in *The Christmas Story*. Please bring an offering of warmth (gently used or new blankets or jackets and preferably new scarves, mittens, or toboggans) that night. Following our service in the sanctuary, we will have a birthday party for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall, complete with cake and ice cream. The offering is also our December mission project, so if you are unable to attend the event and would still like to donate, you may place your donations in the drawer in the Lewis Building cabinet any time during December. All donations will be given out to our Clothing Ministry guests.

2022 financial year gifts must be post-marked or given electronically by December 31 in order to be recorded on your 2022 contribution statement. Gifts brought to the church office must be in the office by December 30 since the 31<sup>st</sup> is a Saturday. The last Sunday to bring an offering is December 25. If you have a question about your giving in 2022, please contact Katherine Rattie ([financeadmin@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:financeadmin@fbcraleigh.org)).

If you have used offering envelopes this year or have requested them for 2023, you will find contribution envelopes for 2023 on the first floor corridor leading to the Clothing Ministry this coming Sunday, December 18. If you would like some but have not requested them, go to the website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest)).

The new issue of our *First Foundations* magazine is currently available in the Lewis building lobby by the elevators as well as at both entrances of the sanctuary. You may also access all the issues of our magazines on the church website ([fbcraleigh.org](http://fbcraleigh.org)).

Sign up now for Salt Shakers 2023! Email Jessica Helms ([jessica.brickell.helms@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.brickell.helms@gmail.com)) by January 10 to be assigned to dinner groups which will meet on four dates throughout the year. This is a great way to get to know people at the church! See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more details.

86 stewardship cards totaling \$615,770 have been received. Your gift matters! Please return your stewardship card to the church, or you may pledge online ([www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/stewardship)). Also, if you are not receiving offering envelopes and wish to, wish to change what you receive, or wish not to receive envelopes for 2023, please go to the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest/](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/offeringenveloperequest/)).

The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. As of December 15, we have received \$1,162 toward our goal of \$20,000.

Diaper changing stations are located in the men's and women's bathrooms on each floor of the Lewis building, and a nursing room is located in our preschool suite on the first floor.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship bags are located in the narthex and in the Gathering Room; preschoolers (birth – kindergarten) are also welcome to join the supervised play in the preschool suite on first floor.

**Calendar Highlights**  
**December 18–25**

Sunday, December 18

- 9:00     *The Christmas Story* rehearsal (sanctuary)
- 9:45     Sunday School
- 11:00    Worship/Baptism (sanctuary & YouTube)  
          JBC worship (Fellowship Hall)  
          Children’s worship (224)
- 5:00     *The Christmas Story*/reception (sanctuary/Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 19

- Clothing ministry closed
- 6:30     Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, December 20

- 10:45    WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 12:00    Staff Christmas luncheon

Thursday, December 22

- 7:00     Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Friday, December 23

Office closed — Christmas holiday

Saturday, December 24

- 5:00     Christmas Eve service/Communion (sanctuary)

Sunday, December 25

- 11:00    Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)  
          JBC worship (226)

To facilitate your giving to FBC, use the QR codes below to link to the website for our main electronic giving, VANCO Faith, and the page that lists all our e-giving options and instructions.

Use this QR code to e-give to FBC on line:

Use this code to e-give through PayPal  
and other options:

