

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 4, 2022

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Second Sunday of Advent, our focus is upon giving witness to the presence and activity of God in our lives and world. As the prophet Isaiah gives witness to what God intends to do, and as John the Baptist gives witness to one more powerful who is coming after him, we are called to give witness to the presence of Christ in our lives. We confess our struggle with this calling, and seek to find ways of embracing it more faithfully, beginning with the witness we provide here in worship and praise, in prayer and reflection, with songs and silence.

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

"Blest Be the God of Israel"
Maureen Howell, arr.

Maureen Howell

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Megan Archer and Cady Mercer

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.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy and eternal God, through John's prophetic voice, we hear your call to repentance. We realize that all we do and say is not worthy of the name you have given us. We have brought discord instead of peace. We have caused division instead of reconciliation. We confess our sins and ask your forgiveness. Encourage and empower us to bear the fruits of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

The Response (sung)

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868

Music: Lewis Redner, 1868

The Assurance of Forgiveness

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Christian Testament

Romans 15:4–13

Derek Foster

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given
on great and small to shine, O Light Divine!
May each soul in sorrow’s night see the heavenly light!
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!
All those whose feet may falter,
lead unto the sacred altar!
O shine from above, Divine Light of love!
Show us the way unto our God, we pray.
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be.
Light Divine, we praise Thee.

Words: adapt. Alice Mattullath, 1937

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 3:1–12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet
Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of
the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt
around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and
all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by
him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,
“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of
repentance. ⁹Do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful
than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor
and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2. Let ev - ery heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the
 3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge
 4. To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the
 5. To you, O Christ, all prais - es be, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh: a - wake and lis - ten
 way for God with - in, and so pre - pare to
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 fall - en sin - ner stand; shine out, and let your
 sets your peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 be the home where such a might - y guest may come.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more!

WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1736; tr. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th C.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS
 L.M.

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Overcoming Our Aversion to the ‘W’ Word”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

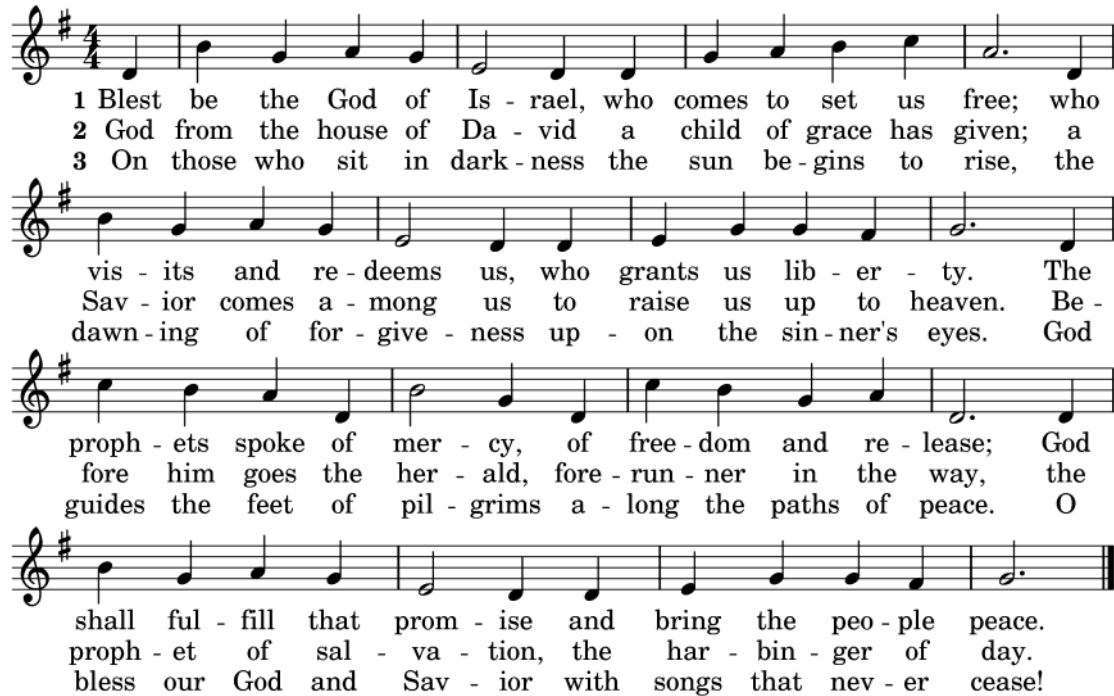
The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

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

“Blest Be the God of Israel”
(Luke 1:68-79, paraphrased)

MERLE’S TUNE



1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free; who
2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given; a
3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise, the
vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty. The
Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven. Be -
dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes. God
proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease; God
fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way, the
guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace. O
shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

—Michael Perry, 1973

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

“Postlude on HYFRYDOL”
Alice Jordan

Maureen Howell

*The congregation may stand.

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The banner for the pulpit today is given in loving memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Chamblee by Jan and Robert Ponton with a donation to the Day Mission Fund.

The Deacon on Call is Derek Foster. A 21-year member, Derek is a co-teacher for the Grades 3–5 Sunday School class and a member of The Journey Class. Derek and his wife Jen, have three children: Jay, Luke, and Meg.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

Online Advent devotional guides may be found at:

<https://theology.mercer.edu/advent/>

https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1

<https://www.ctsnet.edu/advent/>

<https://katebowler.com/advent2022/>

Centerpoint: Wednesday, December 7; meal served at 5:15pm. We hope your family will make plans to join us as we spread some Christmas cheer caroling to our homebound members! We will gather at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall, split into small groups, and leave the church at 6:15pm. Each group will be assigned a location, and everyone will return to church by 7:15pm.

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). The menu for December 7 is: baked pork chops with apple sauce, peas, and roasted potatoes; non-meat option: mock chicken patty; kids: buttered noodles.

Each year in December we launch the Global Missions Offering which supports CBF field personnel around the world, usually hearing from one of these personnel. This year, we will hear from three of our own members — Libby Barnes, Sheila Jordan, and Nancy Moore Phillips — who have just returned from partnership mission work in Romania, helping provide food relief for people living with war in Ukraine. These three women will be the proclaimers in worship on December 11, speaking to their experience, the needs they encountered, the questions that were raised, and the hope they observed.

On Sunday, December 18, 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.

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 4–11

Sunday, December 4

- 9:15 Buddy Breakfast (301/302)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 6:00 Hanging of the Greens (sanctuary)
- 7:00 HoG reception (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 5

- 10:00 Clothing ministry
- 6:00 ITC Board meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 High school Bible study (Wade home)
Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, December 6

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 12:00 Volunteer luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 7

- 5:15 Meal served (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:15 Centerpoint: Christmas caroling (Fellowship Hall/off-site locations)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, December 8

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (FH)

Saturday, December 10

- 6:00 Unity class Christmas party (Ellis home)

Sunday, December 11

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship/Romania & Global Missions presentation (sanctuary & YouTube)
JBC worship (226)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (Fellowship Hall/Zoom)

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
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