

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



*I will raise up a righteous branch for David.
Jeremiah 33:15*

December 1, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. In our day-to-day calendar year, Advent and Christmas mark the end of the year. However, in the Christian liturgy, Advent is the beginning of a new year. Spiritually, we begin a new year awaiting the birth of Christ, beginning the cycle of God's magnificent story once again. Today we focus on Hope as we light the first candle of our wreath. Hope implies waiting and acknowledges the tension in waiting for something good. Thus, our texts provide pieces of prophetic and apocalyptic hope, our music invites us to ponder the feelings of waiting on God, and our sermon explores the hope-centered apocalyptic artistry of our Gospel lesson. May today be a reminder that wherever we may find ourselves in our journey, the presence of Christ in our world is a flickering light of hope.

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

"Prelude on AR HYD Y NOS"
Maureen Howell

Maureen Howell

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mary Lynn and Chris Kidd

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, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

(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 Hymn of Praise, 133 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession (responsive)

based on Psalm 25

Refrain:



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.

Music: Marty Haugen, 1969

LEADER: Beloved of God, by humbling ourselves and confessing our sins,

PEOPLE: **God does not remember the sins of our past.**

LEADER: Instead, according to our Eternal's unwavering love and goodness,

PEOPLE: **our sins are forgotten, but we are remembered.** [Refrain]

LEADER: So walk humbly with the Spirit, learn of God's righteous ways, knowing that all the paths of our Lord endure,

PEOPLE: **in love and faithfulness for those who remain true to God's promises and just ways.** [Refrain]

The Prayer of Confession

Leah Reed

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The Act of Praise



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!

Words: Trad. Liturgical text
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Dorothy Holley

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.**

The Christian Testament

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

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 Anthem

“Lost in the Night”

Kyle Haugen, arr.

Sanctuary Choir

Tonya Carter, solo

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish,
Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,
Giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?
Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling,
Dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
Death’s dreaded darkness forever dispelling.
Christ is coming soon.

Words: Olav Lee, tr. 1932

Music: Finnish Hymn

The Morning Prayer

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

Luke 21:25–36

²⁵There 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.

³⁴Be 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.**

"The Practical Application of the Apocalypse"

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,

AR HYD Y NOS

"View the Present Through the Promise"



1. View the pres-ent through the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.
2. Probe the pres-ent with the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.
3. Match the pres-ent to the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.



Trust de - spite the deep-ening dark-ness, Christ will come a - gain.
 Let your dai - ly ac - tions wit-ness, Christ will come a - gain.
 Make this hope your guid - ing prem - ise, Christ will come a - gain.



Lift the world a - bove its griev-ing through your watch-ing and be-liev-ing
 Let your lov - ing and your giv - ing and your jus - tice and for-giv-ing
 Pat - tern all your cal - cu - lat - ing and the world you are cre - at - ing



in the hope past hope's con-ceive - ing: Christ will come a - gain.
 be a sign to all the liv - ing: Christ will come a - gain.
 to the ad - vent you are wait - ing: Christ will come a - gain.

Words: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985

Music: Trad. Welsh melody, alt:

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

“Horns of HYFRYDOL”

Maureen Howell

Penny Rodriguez

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is Dorothy Holley. An 18-year member and first-term deacon, Dorothy is a member of the Sharing Thoughts Sunday School class. She serves on the Worship Committee and is an assistant leader for the GAs. She has two children, Elaine and John.

The new Advent parament was dreamed up by LaCount Anderson after he attended the annual Music & Worship Week at Montreat and learned about the intricacies of designs used for sacred artwork in places of worship. We hope this image inspires congregants to reflect on the birth of Christ during this season of hope, joy and anticipation.

Hospitality + Community, our 2025 stewardship emphasis, is underway. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church. Use the QR code to the right to make your pledge today! As of November 26, we have received 49 pledges totaling \$415,680.



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.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, December 4; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. The program on December 4 will be a presentation from Dr. Patrick Fuller, executive director of the Raleigh Baptist Association. The RBA is a significant partner organization for FBC's mission efforts. Most recently, FBC partnered with RBA to collect and deliver supplies for people affected by Hurricane Helene in WNC.

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 on December 4 is: spaghetti with meatballs and tomato sauce, steamed broccoli, and garlic bread; non-meat option: spaghetti w/ tomato sauce.

Hanging of the Greens will be held next Sunday, December 8, at 6pm, 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 this Friday, December 6.

If you can make two or three dozen cookies for the Hanging of the Greens reception, please email Sheila Jordan (jbwaj@yahoo.com). The cookies need to be brought to the kitchen on Sunday morning, December 8.


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 the first floor.

To access the church WiFi, please use our guest network: *FBC-MG*; password: "biography." You will need to sign in upon each use.

Visiting? We'd love to get to know you. Scan the QR code to the right to share your contact information.



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

Calendar Highlights • December 1–December 8

Sunday, December 1

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship/Michael Hood preaching (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth choir pizza outing (Mellow Mushroom)

Monday, December 2

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

Tuesday, December 3

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 12:00 Staff Christmas lunch
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (301)
- 6:00 Properties Committee meeting (conference room)

Wednesday, December 4

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:45 Children's music & missions (preschool & children's suites)
- 6:15 Centerpoint (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's music & missions (310/sanctuary)
Youth Bible study (Blue Room)
Handbell rehearsal (sanctuary)
- 6:45 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, December 5

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

Saturday, December 7

- 10:00 Hanging of the Greens rehearsal (sanctuary)

Sunday, December 8

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 6:00 Hanging of the Greens service (sanctuary)
- 7:00 Hanging of the Greens reception (fellowship hall)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
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Christopher C. F. Chapman, Pastor

J. Daniel Day, Pastor Emeritus

Warren Howell, Music

Wayne Hager, Church Administrator

Lynn Lingafelt, Children

Michael Hood, Youth/College

Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor

Maureen Howell, Organist/Music Assistant

Leah Anderson Reed, Community

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.