

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024

Five o'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude of Carols

Maureen Howell
Beth McCollum
Becky and Cady Mercer

The Lighting of the Christ Candle (responsive) Elizabeth and Victor Santana

READER: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

(The Christ candle is lit.)

ALL: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

*The Hymn, 173

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Michael Hood

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: “Glory in the highest and peace on earth!”; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*The Carol

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

SUSSEX CAROL



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels
an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
made us glad; then why should we on earth be sad, since
sing this night; all out of dark - ness we have light, which
hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news of great
our Re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God in high - est
mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King’s birth.
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
heaven; peace on earth and good - will. A - men!”

Words and Music: Traditional English Carol

The Reading

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Carol, 147

“Away in a Manger” (*vs 1*)

MUELLER

The Reading

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The Carol, 152

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (*st 1*)

GLORIA

The Reading

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Homily

“Playing Our Role”

Christopher Chapman

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

The Invitation to the Table

Christopher Chapman

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lynn Lingafelt

LEADER: God of angels and shepherds, we thank you for taking care of Mary and Joseph. We thank you for the warm stable and the soft hay. We thank you that Jesus your Son came to live on earth, and that he was a sweet baby, cradled in his mother’s arms. Help us remember that he sometimes cried and got hungry. Help us remember that he was like us in every way, but he was also your holy Son.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

LEADER: God of all earth’s people, we thank you that Jesus grew and became strong. We thank you that he welcomed children and blessed them. We thank you that he taught the people who came to him, and that he healed the sick and fed those who were hungry. Help us to remember that he loved us enough to die for us. Help us to remember that you raised him to life again and that he is our friend and reigns with you forever.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

LEADER: God of glory, we thank you for Christmas, for laughter and singing, for family and friends, for presents and good food. Help us to remember the people who are hungry, the people who are sick or sad, the people who are afraid. Help us to remember all year long that Jesus is the Prince of peace.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

LEADER: We thank you, God, for this holy place, for bringing us together at your table, surrounded by your love. We thank you for this holy meal, for inviting us to accept Jesus’ gift of himself, for asking us to taste and see how much Jesus loves us. We thank you for this holy night, for the glad songs we sing and the gifts of love we receive.

PEOPLE: Help us to give ourselves in love and joy. In the name of Jesus our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

The Celebration of Communion

*We celebrate communion this evening through the practice of intinction. You are invited to come forward, receive a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup. **All of the bread is gluten free.***

“Child of My Heart”
Marty Haugen, arr.

Caroline Childrey

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

*The Charge to Discipleship (responsive)

Leah Reed

LEADER: The God who said, “Let there be light,” has caused light to shine in our hearts. That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: **As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ’s light and love in the world.**

*The Passing of the Light

As the light of Christ is passed, please keep your lighted candle upright. At the conclusion of the benediction, please extinguish your candle.

*The Carol

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and Child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818
tr. John F. Young, 1863
Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

*The Benediction

Leah Reed

*The Postlude

“Joy to the World”

Maureen Howell

Dave Brubeck

*The congregation may stand.

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Calendar Highlights • December 24–31

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve service/communion (sanctuary)

Tuesday, December 24–Thursday, December 26

Church office closed

Sunday, December 29

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)

JBC worship (227)

Sunday, December 31

First Night activities (sanctuary)

- The clothing ministry will be closed on Monday, December 30.
- The church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.
- Mid-week activities will resume Wednesday, January 8.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH

Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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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.