

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



*As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."*

*Luke 3:4*

December 8, 2024

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2024

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, a season of expectation and preparation for the coming of Christ into not just a Bethlehem stable but also our lives and world. We express our feelings of expectation by lighting the second Advent candle and singing songs of joyful anticipation. We prepare for Christ's Advent by offering prayers for the world and reflecting on texts that call us to the good work of repentance. We worship throughout this season with a longing to know the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas, yet we also realize that these sacred gifts often come through our efforts in God's grace to help shape a better world. Thus, while we sing here, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," we depart to make sure he does.

\*\*\*\*\*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Lynn Lingafelt

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 PUER NOBIS"  
Thomas Keesecker

Maureen Howell

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Emily Rose Price and Lance Coffey

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

*(Second candle is lit.)*

All: **Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

The Introit

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Sanctuary Choir

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him  
Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood  
That we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord,  
The Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come;  
Sing holy, holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,  
For Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!

Words: Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

### The Call to Confession (responsive)

LEADER: We have not always looked for you.

**PEOPLE: Let us see that you come among us.**

LEADER: We have turned our eyes upon our distractions.

**PEOPLE: Give us a glimpse of your glory.**

LEADER: We have allowed our fears and failures to hold us captive.

**PEOPLE: Free us to rejoice in your presence, O Lord.**

### The Prayer of Confession

### The Silent Confession

### The Assurance of Forgiveness

### \*The Hymn of Praise

### “Blest Be the God of Israel”

### 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!

Words: Michael Perry, 1973

Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Malachi 3:1–4

Derek Foster

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 1:3–11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Hymn of Devotion

“He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "He came down that we may have \*love; He came down that we may have love: He came down that we may have love, Hal-le - lu - jah for ev - er - more." The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and triplets. A "Cantata" marking is present above the final vocal line.

\*Substitute peace, joy, hope, life, etc.

Words: Cameroon traditional carol  
Tune: transcribed and arr. John L. Bell, 1990

## 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 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.  
<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

### The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Finding Magic in the Work We’re Avoiding”

## 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, 136

PUER NOBIS

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

## 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

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Maureen Howell

John Carter

\*The congregation may stand.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is reprinted and/or streamed with permission, all rights reserved, under ONE LICENSE #A-708116: *Prelude on PUER NOBIS*, Thomas Keesecker © 2018 Birnamwood Publications/MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.; *E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*, Paul Manz © 1954 Concordia Publishing House, © 1987, assigned to Birnamwood Publications/MorningStar Music; *Blest Be the God of Israel*, Words, Michael Perry © 1973 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company); *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, John Carter © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

All scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover art by Julie Lonneman © 2003 Liturgy Training Publications.



The Deacon on Call is Derek Foster. A 23-year member, Derek is a co-teacher for the Grades 4th & 5th grade Sunday School class and a member of The Journey class. He also serves on the Denominational Relations Committee. Derek and his wife Jen, have three children: Jay, Luke, and Meg.

Ava and Anza Harker are centering us for worship this morning by lighting the candles, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world, and by placing the Bible on the communion table, reminding us that God's word speaks to us still.

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.

Our 48th annual Hanging of the Greens service will be held tonight at 6pm, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. We hope you will make plans to join us for this special service of readings and sacred music, as we adorn our sanctuary with greenery for the season of Advent.

Join us on Sunday, December 15, at 5pm, when the children of our church will share the story of Jesus' birth by becoming the characters in the nativity story! Please bring gifts of warmth (gloves, toboggins, scarves, blankets); these will be a part of our offertory during the service and will be given to the Clothing Ministry to share with clients this winter. We'll conclude with a little Birthday Party for Jesus reception (ie cake and ice cream) in the fellowship hall.

*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 December 3, we have received 69 pledges totaling \$611,180.



End-of-year giving: Please continue to be faithful to your financial stewardship commitment. Your generous support toward this year's budget will allow us to end the year with a solid base on which to begin 2025. Year-end contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31.

Centerpoint: Wednesday, December 11; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. The program on December 11 will be led by the Reverend Vance E. Haywood, Jr., who is the senior pastor of St. John's Metropolitan Community Church and chairperson of the Homeless Emergency Response Committee of Wake County which oversees, along with St. John's, the White Flag Shelter program we have just joined. Vance will provide some history on the program, information about current needs and challenges, and an overview of the population served.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website ([www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice](http://www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice)), by email ([dmast@fbcraleigh.org](mailto:dmast@fbcraleigh.org)), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu on December 11 is: shrimp and grits with Texas toast and fresh fruit; non-meat: cheesy grits.


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 8–15**

### **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)

### **Monday, December 9**

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

### **Tuesday, December 10**

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 12:30 Volunteer Christmas luncheon
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (301)
- 6:30 MMiH board meeting (conference room)

### **Wednesday, December 11**

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

### **Thursday, December 12**

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

### **Sunday, December 13**

- 8:00 Dental bus (parking lot)
- 6:00 Pathfinders' Christmas party (Ellis home)

### **Saturday, December 14**

- 12:00 Everette Miller Friendship Christmas party (Springmoor)
- 6:00 Unity Christmas party (Hoover home)

### **Sunday, December 15**

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220)
- 5:00 Vesper service/Children's Christmas Story (sanctuary)
- 6:30 Sanctuary Choir Christmas party (Ellis home)

---

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH  
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
99 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603  
(919) 832-4485 x201 Fax: (919) 832-6726 [www.fbcraleigh.org](http://www.fbcraleigh.org)

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.*