

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 14, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, a day when joy is often the theme and the texts certainly point to a future hope filled with joy. But the texts also underscore the need for patient waiting for this future hope. The sermon explores the nature of faithful waiting and a possible link between waiting and joy that is tied to a different understanding of nearness. Perhaps we are waiting not for a future hope but for the ability to embrace the present gift of God-With-Us. We move from reflection upon this possibility to a celebration of it with a short cantata, Hodie! (Latin for “today” or “this day”), on the text from a medieval chant which has inspired composers for centuries. This 20th century composition by composer Randall Stroope invokes both the intimacy and majesty of the incarnation, ever happening this day. The thrilling conclusion incorporates the 16th century Lutheran chorale, “Wake, Awake!” sung by the Young Women’s Ensemble.

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 Introit

“Carol of the Children” Youth Women’s Ensemble
John Rutter

One for the star in the sky over Bethlehem,
Two for the hands that will rock him to sleep;
Three for the kings bringing gold, bringing myrrh, bringing incense;
Four for the angels that watch over his bedside.
Blue for the robe of the sweet Virgin Mary;
White for the dawn of the first Christmas Day;
Red for the blood that he shed for us all on Good Friday,
Black for the tomb where he rested till Easter.
Lullaby! See Jesus asleep; Angels and shepherds
their watch on him keep. Lullaby! He soon will awake,
for the oxen are lowing and morning will break.

And one for the heart that I give as my offering to Jesus.

Words: John Rutter, 1982

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hannah Davis and Colin Frankenhouser

Reader 1: This is the third Sunday of Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *wait*. In this season we are called to do many things in the way of preparation and to give witness to our experience with Christ, but Christ does not come at our command. God comes to us in Christ when God is ready. So, Advent is a time to wait, to prepare our hearts and to wonder what God has in store for us. The prophet Isaiah describes what we are waiting for with these words (Isaiah 35:1-10).

Reader 2: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader 1: The first Advent candle burns as a sign of our willingness to prepare for the coming of God's reign in Christ. The second candle reminds us of our calling to give witness to our experience. We light the third candle today as an expression of our commitment to wait for God's new age, for Christ to be born anew in our hearts, for our prayers to be answered.

(The third candle is lit.)

Reader 2: (Let us pray) Holy God, you know how hard it is for us to wait. We want everything right now. Deepen our trust in you, that we may develop the patience to wait. Help us to use our time well as we prepare for the coming of the Christ, amen.

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near! Let
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove. His
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace, and
 ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. Greet
 rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. Lift
 ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. All
 One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain
 O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Frnazen, 1812, Charles Price, adapt., 1980

Music: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession (responsive)

LEADER: Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad,

PEOPLE: for God has come to save us.

LEADER: Let us confess our sin.

The Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.**You made a way for us in the wilderness,
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.****We hide our eyes from your presence.****We do not listen to your word.****We are lifeless when we ought to dance
and speechless when we ought to sing.****Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Forgiveness and Expression of Praise

LEADER: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.
Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.

PEOPLE: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
All glory and thanks be to God.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

*The Canticle

based on Luke 1:46-55

"My Soul Proclaims with Wonder"

(choir sings first refrain and stanza 1)

My soul pro - claims with won - der the great - ness of the
Lord; re - joic - ing in God's good - ness my
spir - it is re - stored.

1. To me has God shown
2. God's mer - cy shields the
3. The might - y have been
4. To A - bra - ham's de -

fa - vor, to one the world thought frail, and
faith - ful and saves them from de - feat with
van - quished, the low - ly lift - ed up. The
scen - dants the Lord will stead - fast prove, for

ev - ery age will ech - o the an - gels' first "All hail,"
strength that turns to scat - ter the proud in their con - ceit.
hun - gry find a - bun - dance; the rich, an emp - ty cup.
God has made with Is - rael a cov - e - nant of love.

Words: Carl P. Daw (based on Luke 1:46-55), 1989
Music: *KELVINGROVE*, traditional Scottish melody

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Indeed, we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about, for the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

“Things That Help Us To Wait Patiently”

- I. Christus natus est, hodie. Alleluia! (*Christ is born this day! Alleluia!*)
- II. Hodie. Christus natus est. Salvator apparuit in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli: Alleluia! (*Today the Savior has appeared. The angels sing, the archangels rejoice. Alleluia!*)
- III. Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia (*Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*)

Wake, awake! For night is flying.
All the watchers on the heights are crying.
Awake, Jerusalem arise!
Alleluia! Therefore will we eternally
sing hymns of joy and praise to thee! Alleluia!

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, 146

ANTIOCH

“Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”
(Stanzas 1 & 4 only)

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

“Toccatina on *Joy to the World*”
Brenda Portman

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.

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The Deacon on Call is Hollis Yelverton. A life-long member, Hollis serves on the Social Committee and as an assistant for the Pre-K/K Choir. She is a member of the Evening Bells and is a teacher for the Grains of Sand Sunday School Class. Hollis and her husband, Wyatt, have two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth.

Thanks to guest musicians, John Roth and Lisa Burn (trumpets), Rachel Niketopoulus (horn), Becca Clemens (trombone), and Stephen Hambright (percussion).

The clothing ministry will be closed for all donations from December 17 to January 7 while our volunteers are away for the holidays. We will resume accepting donations again on January 8. We are grateful for the church's continued support of this ministry.

We Promise To Do Our Best, our 2026 stewardship emphasis, is underway. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God. If you don't receive a stewardship packet in the mail, please contact the church office. As of December 11, we have received 95 pledges totaling \$789,920 towards our goal of \$1,389,580.

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 2026. Year-end contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31.

Church conference: Wednesday, December 17; meal served at 5pm, prayer time and program at 6pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and Zoom link.

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 17 is vegetarian chili and cornbread; kids: onion rings.

In the event of an emergency, first aid kits can be found at the greeting desk in the Lewis Lobby and in the workroom in the church office. The church has two defibrillators (AED): one between the elevator and the church offices on the second floor and one on the main floor behind the sanctuary on the Edenton Street side.

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.

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

Calendar Highlights • December 14–21

Sunday, December 14

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 6:00 Youth Supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth group (Blue Room)

Monday, December 15

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:15 Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 16

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 12:00 Staff Christmas luncheon
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 1:30 Yoga (302)

Wednesday, December 17

- 5:00 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 6:00 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, December 18

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

Saturday, December 20

- 11:45 Everette Miller Friendship class Christmas social (Springmoor)

Sunday, December 21

- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 1:30 JBC Christmas service (sanctuary)
- 3:00 JBC Christmas reception (301/302)

The Greening of the Church

The fresh flowers, wreaths, garland, and Chrismon tree that adorn our sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of these loved ones and friends.

The center wreath on the choir loft rail is given in loving memory of their parents, the Reverend and Mrs. Wallace Parham and Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Wilson by Carole and Brad Wilson.

The wreaths on the rail in front of the church are given in loving memory of Dr. Clifford and Ruby Byrum by their family.

The wreaths on the sanctuary doors are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brantley, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brantley, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Castlebury; John C. Brantley, IV; and John C. Brantley, III, by the Brantley family.

The wreaths on the west parking lot doors of the Lewis Education Building are given in loving memory of their son, Blayne and Regina's great aunt, Doris Bagby by Steve and Regina Brown.

The wreaths on the Edenton Street doors of the Lewis Education Building are given in honor of Dr. Chris and Mrs. Dana Chapman by John and Harriet Smith.

The wreaths on the clothing ministry doors are given in memory of Daddy Ree, Mama Nette, Nana and Da by Jess and John Rhodes and Sarah Catherine Rhodes.

The wreaths on the Infant Toddler Center entrance of the Lewis Education Building are given in loving honor of Margie, Wade, Cameron and Charlotte Sasser by Diane and Dennis Ellis.

The wreath on the State lot door is given in memory of Ed and Laura Anne Vick by their daughters, Jennifer, Carolyn and Elizabeth.

The wreaths on the church office doors are given in memory of Madge and O. H. Dillard by their twelve disciples.

The wreath on the right side of the choir loft rail is given in loving memory of Scott Lingafelt.

The wreath on the left side of the choir loft rail is given in honor of their grandboys, Asher and Ryder Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell

The wreath on the right choir loft door is given in loving memory of their parents, Mary Kellam and Jimmy Hollis and William Lillian Dickens by Carolyn and Kent Dickens.

The wreath on the left choir loft doors is given in grateful honor of Warren and Maureen Howell by the Sanctuary Choir.

The Advent wreath is given in honor of Alan, Kimberly, Emily and Matthew Taylor by Mom and Dad.

A pew wreath is given in honor of Lynn Lingafelt by the FBC elementary Sunday School teachers.

A pew wreath is given in memory of Jennifer Lane and Wilton and Evelyn Wheeley by Lynn and Bill Loomis.

A pew wreath is given in memory of Carey Hunter by his wife, Anne, and children.

The poinsettia in the library is given in loving memory of Aileen Simpson by Edith Simpson.

In Honor of:

Edith Simpson

Betsy and Clint Neal (“Ma-Ma and Granddaddy”)

Val Wilson (“Gram”)

Past and present teachers and members of the John Hiott Sunday School class

and the Thirty-Niners

Ruth L. Dowell

Their children, Kirsten, Joe, Tom, and Kate

Their grandchildren, Remi, Lotti, Olivia, Maeve, and Chloe

Greg Flowers

Sonia Moore

Lauren, Nick, Caroline, and Savannah Bradley

Joan Hobson

Their teachers

His father, Donel Kelley

Our fabulous children at First Baptist

Our caring and dedicated children’s leaders

Edith Simpson

Their family

Jamie and Charles Petty

Jeannie and Wayne Jordan (“Gigi and Daddy Wayne”)

Rachel and Charles Tucker (“Mamaw and Papa”)

Bonnie Baker

Joan Cooper’s family

Given By:

Anne and Matt Bullard

Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey

Eller and Martha Collins

Joan Cooper

The Dowell family

Catharine and Jerry Dudeck

Catharine and Jerry Dudeck

Marchelle Flowers

Marchelle and Greg Flowers

Shirley and John Hobson

Shirley and John Hobson

John Hiott Fellowship Class

David Kelley and Lynn Marshbanks

Lynn Lingafelt

Lynn Lingafelt

Carol and Jim Millen

Betsy and Clint Neal

Allison, Tanner, Ana, Caleb, Claire, Tom, and Dylan

Ed, Noel, Zack, Dylan, and Mary Jordan

Ed, Noel, Zack, Dylan, and Mary Jordan

Linda Sears

Stocks-Heath families: FBC Whiteville

In Memory of:

Harry Aslett
Aunt Annabel and Uncle Tommy
Doris and Max Baldwin
George W. Barnes
Jerry T. Blanchard, Sr. (“Daddy, Granddaddy”)
Joe E. Overman (“Daddy, Papa”)
Glenn Davis (“Daddy”)
Fannie Memory and Mitch Mitchell
Gwendolyn Cavin
Katherine and Charles Childrey (“Grandmama” and “Pop”)
Robert Lewis (“Uncle Bob”)
Jim Clary
The parents of Margaret and Jim Clary
Andy Wilson
Lauren Britt
William B. Dowell, Jr.
Their baby grandson
Their parents, Lillian and Ray Dudeck and Roberta and Bill Ray
H.F., Ginny, and Forest Flowers
Dick Moore
Blayne Brown
Anna Helms
Scott Lingafelt
Their teachers
Their parents
Pauline Wilkins Garrard, John Wilkins, Sam Garrard, and Joanne Wilkins Canady
Edward Hobson
Kay Huggins
Mack Conway
Scott Lingafelt
Her parents, Mary Jane and Burgess Marshbanks

Given by:

Denise Aslett
The Bacons
The Baldwin and Harris families
Annette Barnes
The Blanchards
The Blanchards
Lindsey and Brantley Blanchard, Jr.
Anne and Matt Bullard
Ralph Cavin
Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey
Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey
Margaret Clary
Margaret Clary
The Collins family
Betty and Austin Connors
The Dowell family
Catharine and Jerry Dudeck
Catharine and Jerry Dudeck
Marchelle and Greg Flowers
Marchelle and Greg Flowers
Jess and Chase Helms
Jess and Chase Helms
Jess and Chase Helms
John Hiott Fellowship Class
Sheila and John Hite
Shirley and John Hobson
Shirley and John Hobson
Barbara Huggins
Denise and Mike King and Lauren Teague
Luke, Sarah, Philip, and Lynn Lingafelt
Lynn Marshbanks and David Kelley

His mother, Caroline Kelley
Odell, Polly, and Diane McCollum
Lauren Britt
Steven Simpson
Elizabeth Chamblee
Christy Alston
Kathy Mincey
Sarah Connor
Maurice Baker
Jackie Plecker
Danny Thomerson
Alice and George Tunstall
Jack Padget
Jerry Stevens
Rolin Stevens
Andy Wilson

Lynn Marshbanks and David Kelley
Beth McCollum
Carol and Jim Millen
Carol and Jim Millen
Jan and Robert Ponton
Linda Roberts
Dan Roberts
The Santana family
Linda Sears
Kat Sidner
Anne Tunstall
Anne Tunstall
Val Wilson
Val Wilson
Val Wilson
Val Wilson



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.

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



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.