

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 24, 2025  
Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

Five o'clock

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude of Carols

Maureen Howell  
Beth McCollum, violin  
Becky and Cady Mercer, flutes

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Denise Aslett & Margaret Bartolotto

READER 1: Our time of waiting is over now. Our days of preparation are completed. Christmas is here. What has not been done will have to be left undone. We have witnessed to this very night, this very hour, and we hope that the world has heard the Good News. There are many ways to summarize God's love for the world, but the prophet Isaiah puts it this way (Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7).

READER 2: <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

READER 1: Our circle of Advent candles is lit. This evening we light the central candle, the Christ candle, which reminds us that Christ is the light of the world, the center of our lives and the source of hope for the whole world. Christ is born. Praise God!

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

READER 2: (let us pray) Holy God, we are grateful that the time of waiting and preparing is over and that the light of Christ shines so clearly tonight. May our spirits be lifted and our hearts rejoice, for the world will never be the same again. Grace and truth have come to set us free from all that binds us, and we are grateful beyond the capacity of words to express, amen!

\*The Hymn of Praise, 173

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

### WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Gracious God, by the gift of your Spirit,  
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words  
and ponder them in our hearts;  
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.**

The Reading

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He 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.

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  
 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

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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 Reading

Luke 2:8–14

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Solo

“My Lord Has Come”

Niya Petkova

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:  
No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.  
Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;  
No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.  
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.  
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;  
No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

The Homily

Christopher Chapman

“Cast and Location Scouting”

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

The Invitation to the Table

Christopher Chapman

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leah Reed

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.***

## THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

\*The Charge to Discipleship (responsive)

Michael Hood

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

Lynn Lingafelt

\*The Postlude

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"  
John Carter

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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## Calendar Highlights • December 24–31

### Tuesday, December 24

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

### Wednesday, December 24–Thursday, January 1

Church office closed (Christmas holiday & electrical work)

### Sunday, December 28

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 FBC worship/baptism/Michael Hood preaching (sanctuary/YouTube)  
JBC worship (227)

### Sunday, December 31

*First Night* activities (sanctuary)

- The clothing ministry will be closed until January 26.
- The church office will be closed until Friday, January 2.
- Mid-week activities will resume Wednesday, January 7.

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## 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.*