



THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 27, 2022  
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
FBC SANCTUARY  
11:00 A.M.

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*The best anyone can do, the author of Esther implies, is to act within those circumstances in which one finds oneself and to take advantage of those opportunities with an attitude of hope.* -Sidnie White Crawford

Gathering Music

"Advent Medley"  
Arr. Marilyn Ham. © 1985 Lillenas Publishing Co  
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Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Rev. Matthew Sturtevant**

Prelude

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"  
Christian F. Witt/Craig A. Penefield. © 1997 The H.W. Gray Co.  
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\* Lighting the Candle of Hope

**Anne Munsterman  
Dawn Trent  
Wendy Wheeler**

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

\* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 81)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"  
PICARDY

\* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

*If able, please text or message someone from the congregation and share with them the sign of peace.*

\* Responding in Peace (CONG 85 v.1)

"Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"  
PLEADING SAVIOR

**Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth. Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth. Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word. Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.**

\* Gospel Reading

Matthew 5.1-6

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer

“Advent Alleluia”

Arr. Keith Christopher ©2008 Daybreak Music/Hal Leonard Corporation.  
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Hearing our Joys and Concerns

**Rev. Matthew Sturtvant**

Unison Discipline of Confession

**You’ve brought us this far, O God. Every step has been learning, and now here we are in this place, this moment. Perhaps we are here for just such a time as this. But we confess that we do not feel equipped. We don’t feel ready for the holidays, let alone for facing the situations that keep arising around the world. We admit we would rather lock the door and pull the curtains, hoping no one will ask of us something we aren’t sure how to do. Forgive our timidity, and our unwillingness to trust your word. Forgive our closed minds and hearts, and help us to step outside the lines we have drawn for ourselves. Remind us that you have given us what we need, and that you have given us as the gift to meet the needs of the world in this moment. Make us your blessing again today.**

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Hear the good news—God is with us in this moment, the Holy Spirit equips us, and through Christ Jesus our Lord, we are forgiven. Amen.*

Morning Prayer and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response (CONGR 88) (Evelyn piano)

“Blest Be the God of Israel”  
MERLE’S TUNE

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship

**Anne Munsterman**

Offertory (Evelyn organ)

“Lo, How a Rose”  
15th Century German Melody/Olive Nelson Russell.  
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\* Doxology (Mark sing; Evelyn organ) and Prayer of Thanksgiving

**(Those wishing to attend Children’s Church may leave now)**

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

**Rev. Cristina Adams**  
Esther 4.1-14

*\* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able*

Sermon

**Rev. Cristina Adams**  
"Variations on Esther"

\* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 396)

"For Such a Time as This"  
MELITA

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"  
Johann Gottfried Walther/Edward Broughton.  
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**TODAY IN WORSHIP**

*Liturgist: Anne Munsterman*

*Cantor & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson*

*Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen*

*Livestream Video Crew: Susan Pauls, Jim Lord    Sound: Shane Schenkel*

*YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Laura McCorkill*

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*Local Church: Immanuel Lutheran Church*

*American Baptist Churches, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. David Gregg, serving churches in Metro Chicago*

*International Ministries Missionaries: Jeanine & Walt White, serving as Global Consultants*

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*Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy from MoravianChristmas.org*

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Every member of First Baptist Church, like every disciple of Christ, is commissioned to participate in Christian ministry.  
The following persons have been called by this congregation to empower such ministry:

Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant – matt@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Senior Pastor
Rev. Cristina Adams – cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families
Jenny Purvis – office@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Administrative Support Manager
Holly Grassy – holly@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Bookkeeper
Neal Purvis – neal@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Building Manager
Susan Pauls – susan@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Digital Media Coordinator
Mark Robinson – mark@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Director of Worship Music
Evelyn Falen – evelyn@firstbaptistlawrence.com	Organist & Chancel Choir accompanist
Dr. Christy Miller – christy@firstbaptistlawrence.com	8:38 a.m. Worship Pianist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1330 KASOLD DRIVE, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66049  
PHONE: 785/843.0020 \* FAX: 785/843.0021 \* EMAIL: OFFICE@FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM  
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM

*\* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able*