



*Gloria in excelsis deo!*  
*Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, California*



THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25, 2022  
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
11:00 A.M.

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*Don't try to explain the Incarnation to me! It is further from being explainable than the furthest star in the furthest galaxy. It is love, God's limitless love enfleshing that love into the form of a human being, Jesus, the Christ, fully human and fully divine. Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, Christ, the Maker of the universe or perhaps many universes, willingly and lovingly leaving all that power and coming to this poor, sin-filled planet to live with us for a few years to show us what we ought to be and could be.*  
-- Madeleine L'Engle

Gathering Music

"The First Noel"

English Carol / David Paxton ©1992 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission. CCLI#20126570

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Felix Mendelssohn/Lani Smith © 1971 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

"Christmas Medley"

Marilyn Rinehart © 1988 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

\* Gospel Reading

Rev. Melissa Murrell

Luke 2.1-20

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

GATHERING WITH HOPE

\* Carol of Hope (CONGR 122)

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

(Please be seated)

Carol of Hope (CONGR 107, Verses 1, 2, and 4)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

Carol of Hope (CONGR 85)

"Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"

PLEADING SAVIOR

RESPONDING IN PEACE

\* 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.*

\* Carol of Peace (CONGR 106, Verses 1 & 3)

"He is Born"

IL EST NE

(Please be seated)

Carol of Peace (CONGR 111)

"Away in a Manger"

CRADLE SONG

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

## CHRISTMASTIDE PRAYERS

### Hearing our Joys and Concerns

#### Litany of Assurance

Leader: For the anxious new parents and the creatures of instinct,

**People: the light shines.**

Leader: For the onlooker and the message-bearer,

**People: the light shines.**

Leader: For those at work in the cold, and those feeling lonely at home,

**People: the light shines.**

Leader: For the traveler and the host,

**People: the light shines.**

Leader: Far from the center of power, regardless of the plans of the authorities,  
in the midst of everyday life, with ordinary people,

**People: the word became flesh and lived among us.**

Leader: Let us pray, as a people comforted, lived-amongst, and forgiven.

#### 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.**

## RETURNING OUR GIFTS WITH JOY

### Sentences of Stewardship

#### Offertory

**"Everything that Santa Knows"**

Kyle Matthews

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#### \* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### \* Carol of Joy (CONGR 102)

**"Joy to the World"**

ANTIOCH

(Please be seated)

#### Carol of Joy (CONGR 117)

**"Still, Still, Still"**

STILL STILL STILL

#### Carol of Joy (CONGR 148, Verses 1 & 3)

**"What Child is This"**

GREENSLEEVES

## PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH OF GOD'S LOVE

#### \* Gospel Reading

**Rev. Cristina Adams**

Luke 2.21-40

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

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

\* Carol of Love (CONGR 142)

"God's Love Made Visible!"

POSADA

(Please be seated)

Carol of Love (CONGR 114)

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDIUM

Carol of Love (CONG 147)

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

GARTAN, alt.

Children's Sermon

Rev. Cristina Adams

\* Hymn of Invitation, (CONGR 124)

"The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

G. F. Handel / Franklin Ritter © 1981 Lorenz Publishing Co./The Lorenz Corp.

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*Liturgist: Rev. Melissa Murrell    Organist: Evelyn Falen*

*Livestream Video Crew: Glenn Prescott, Matthew Johnston*

*Sound: Brandon Gillette*

*YouTube Chat Moderator: Susan Pauls*

*Cover art: by Randy Greve, [https://www.flickr.com/photos/mariya\\_umama\\_wethemba\\_monastery/2646933603/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mariya_umama_wethemba_monastery/2646933603/)*

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](mailto:matt@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Senior Pastor

Rev. Cristina Adams--[cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

Jenny Purvis – [office@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:office@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Administrative Support Manager

Holly Grassy – [holly@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:holly@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Bookkeeper

Neal Purvis – [neal@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:neal@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Building Manager

Susan Pauls – [susan@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:susan@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Digital Media Coordinator

Mark Robinson – [mark@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:mark@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Director of Worship Music

Evelyn Falen – [evelyn@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:evelyn@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Organist & Chancel Choir accompanist

Dr. Christy Miller – [christy@firstbaptistlawrence.com](mailto:christy@firstbaptistlawrence.com)

Worship Pianist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1330 KASOLD DRIVE, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66049

PHONE: 785/843.0020 \* FAX: 785/843.0021 \* EMAIL: [OFFICE@FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM](mailto:OFFICE@FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM)

[WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM](http://WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM)

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