



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment. The Salvation Army Santa Claus clangs his bell. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the windchill factor. But if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of yourself somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath. -Frederick Buechner

Gathering Music

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Joseph Parry/Mark Hayes. © 2010 The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

“Once He Came in Blessing” (GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN)

Wilbur Held. © 1997 MorningStar Music Pub. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Lighting the Candle of Peace

The Burt Family

One: In the wilderness, where it’s hard to find our way,

All: God is coming.

One: On the mountaintop, where we shout and hope to be heard,

All: God is coming.

One: In the valley, where shadows threaten to overtake us,

All: God is coming.

One: God’s glory shall be revealed,

All: and all people will see it together.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 89)

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

PSALM 42

* Passing of the Peace

John Pauls

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 95 v. 2)

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

PLEADING SAVIOR

We wait our Savior’s coming, our own eternal King!

Long promised by the prophets, let heaven with praises ring.

Our hope is ever growing, God’s peace to all bestowing.

Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God’s word!

* Gospel Reading

Mark 1.1-4

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*

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer

"And the Glory of the Lord"

From "The Messiah" by G. F. Handel/Edited by T. Tertius Noble/Revised Max Spicker. © 1912 G. Schirmer, Inc./
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Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

O God, you are our shepherd, yet we confess that we wonder where you've been. We thought we had an understanding, God, that you would protect us, that you would give us an abundance... We confess that we aren't sure how to speak your good news, since we see so little evidence of it in the headlines. Forgive us for our unwillingness to shout your promise from the mountaintops, and give us courage to face our fear of feeling foolish so that we can participate in your coming kingdom. Forgive us for wanting to keep your promise to ourselves, and bring us together with your people that together we might help each other through the shadowed valleys, encourage one another up the mountainsides, and recognize your glory revealed in a peaceful community we could never have imagined.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. In Christ Jesus, our Lord, your sins are 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.

Prayer Response (CONGR 81)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
PICARDY

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Moment for Mission

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

God at Work: What FBC Means to Me

Offertory

"The Wexford Carol"
English Carol/Mark Hayes. © 2010 The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
Isaiah 40.1-11

Response to Scripture

From "The Messiah" by G. F. Handel/Edited by T. Tertius Noble/Revised Max Spicker. © 1912 G. Schirmer, Inc./
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"Comfort Ye My People"

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
"Holy Dissenters: Isaiah of the Exile"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 66)

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
RESIGNATION

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

"Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"
Thomas Haweis/Wilbur Held. © 1997 MorningStar Music Pub. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: John Pauls

Director of Worship Music and Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Livestream Video Crew: Glenn Prescott, Matthew Johnston Sound: Brandon Gillette

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Susan Pauls

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Ninth Street Baptist Church & Missionary

ABC, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Trisha Miller Manarin, serving churches in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

International Ministries Missionaries: David & Joyce Reed, serving as Global Coordinators for Spiritual Care

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Call to Worship & Discipline of Confession by Rev. Teri Peterson, ©2023, usage rights granted as Bible Worm Subscriber, Liturgy Worm Level on patreon.

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

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* In-person worshippers are invited to stand as able