



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2023
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

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"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."
– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Gathering Music

"Ukrainian Carol"

Traditional/ Arr. Michael Scott. Alfred Publishing Co. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn/ Arr. Evelyn Falen. Public domain/used with permission of arranger

Lighting of Advent Candles (remain seated)

Lily Bruffett & Ethan Sturtevant

Leaders: From generation to generation, we proclaim God's steadfast love, as we seek hope, peace, and joy this advent season. In the best times and the worst times, on days of our greatest wins and hardest losses,

Congregation: together we are all still learning God's goodness.

Leaders: Whatever our joys and whatever our sorrows

Congregation: we gather to sing praise that echoes through the years.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 103)

"O Come All Ye Faithful"
ADESTE FIDELES

* Passing of the Peace (lectern)

Rachel Bruffett

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. 3)

"Prepare the Royal Highway"
PLEADING SAVIOR

Come fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!

All lands will bow before Him, their voices join to sing

of hope and peace abounding, of joy to heaven resounding.

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

Old Testament Reading (lectern)

Emma Druen

Ezra 7:6-10 (a reading from the Common English Bible)

Sermon

Ezra: Rebuilding Community
Andrew Lord

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer

"Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

from The Christmas Oratorio. Oliver Ditson Co./Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Sharing The Children's Church Prayer Chain

Pastor Cristina and kids

Unison Discipline of Confession

Evie Johnston & Tula Billen

O God, in this season of making wish lists and shopping for gifts, we confess that it is easy to want more and forget all that we have. We admit that our focus is often pulled to the wrong things and that we get stuck on what is hard in our lives and to forget to look for the joy around us. Show us your ways.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! If we confess our sins, God is always faithful to forgive us. In Jesus Christ you 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.

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

What FBC Means to Me

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Offertory

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

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

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Logan Druen

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

* Gospel Reading

Charlie Omohundro

Luke 2:1-12 (A reading from the Common English Bible)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Pastor Cristina & Lily Bruffett

Songs of Joy

"Little Drummer Boy"

(CONGR 110) **"Away in the Manger"**

MUELLER

* Hymn of Invitation (CONG 127)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Life of the Church

Benediction

Rachel Bruffett

Postlude

"The First Noel"

English Carol/Margaret Goldson. © 1993 Alfred Pub. Co. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

The Children & Youth of First Baptist Church

Cantor & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen and Levi Grassy

Livestream Video Crew: Jim Lord, Susan Pauls Sound: Marylee Southard

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Peace Mennonite Church

American Baptist Churches, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Patty Bilyeu, serving churches in Illinois and Missouri

International Ministries Missionaries: J.D. & Rhonda Reed, serving in Bolivia

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"Little Drummer Boy," Yancy & Little Praise Party, Yancy Ministries, Inc. Used by permission: Group showing license (web license) purchased at worshiphousekids.com as directed on YancynotNancy YouTube channel; Worship Track streaming permitted by CCLI streaming license #20126570 per worshiphousekids.com.

Poinsettias are available for purchase to recognize a loved one on Christmas Eve. You'll find an order form in the Narthex or you may contact the church office directly, office@firstbaptistlawrence.com or 785-843-0020, ext. 203.

Plants are \$15 each and you may take yours home following the Christmas Eve service.

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

Rev. Cristina Adams — cristina@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Jenny Purvis — office@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Holly Grassy — holly@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Neal Purvis — neal@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Susan Pauls — susan@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Mark Robinson — mark@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Evelyn Falen — evelyn@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Dr. Christy Miller — christy@firstbaptistlawrence.com

Senior Pastor

Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

Administrative Support Manager

Bookkeeper

Building Manager

Digital Media Coordinator

Director of Worship Music

Organist & Chancel Choir accompanist

8:38 a.m. Worship Pianist

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