



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023

When we are virgins in the fullest sense, we do not require others to approve of what we do or how we act. We are in alignment with our deepest, truest nature. -Christine Valters Paintner

Gathering Music

"Carol Medley and What Child Is This"

Arr. Mark Hayes. © 1981 Harold Flammer, Inc. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

"The Birthday of a King"

NEIDLINGER/Joseph Prentiss. © 1992 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Invocation

Sung Call to Worship (CONGR 79, vs. 1)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting the Candle of Love

The Lord Family

One: Can you hear it?

All: God speaks – through angel messengers, through quiet whispers, in the voices of others, and in the nudges of our hearts.

One: Sometimes dramatic and sometimes subtle,

All: Love comes to us.

(Leaders) "We light the candle of love"; "Let us pray" Rejoice, rejoice, we sing – praying for the gladness you promise as you come among us once again. Rejoice, rejoice – in the midst of the shadows, when we least expect and when we are doing everything we can, you appear. In our worship today, may we experience your powerful presence, bringing love and joy to birth even here. Amen.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 79, vs. 2-4)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
VENI EMMANUEL

* Passing of the Peace

Laura McCorkill

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 96 v. 1)

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
HOUSTON

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God: shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Psalm Reading

Laura McCorkill

Psalm 113

Response to Scripture (CONGR 147)

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

GARTAN, alt.

Children's Sermon

Rev. Cristina Adams

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 87)

"Arise Your Light Has Come"

FESTAL SONG

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agenda can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

By the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

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

"Lo, How a Rose"

English Words: Dr. Theodore Baker/16th Century melody/Harmonized by Michael Praetorius. © 1921 E.C. Schirmer Co.

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RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

God at Work: What FBC Means to Me

Offertory

"What Child Is This?"

Greensleeves/William C.Dix. © 1986 Beam Me Up Music/Warner Bros. Pub/Alfred Music

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* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

* Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-56

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*

* Scripture Response

“Canticle of the Turning”

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

Rory Cooney. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission OneLicense.net/ #A-401550

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

“Holy Dissenters: Mary of the Magnificat”

*Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 114)

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDIUM

Life of the Church

A Carol of Benediction (CONGR 107, vs. 1)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Postlude

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (A Toccata)”

Mendelssohn/Donald Hustad. © 2000 Favorite Organ Hymns by Hope Publishing Co.
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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Laura McCorkill

Director of Worship Music and Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Livestream Video Crew: Susan Pauls, Brenda Schenkel Sound: Glenn Prescott

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Hannes Combest

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Plymouth Congregational Church

ABC, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Dr. Michael P.L. Friday, serving churches in Greater Indianapolis

International Ministries Missionaries: Stacy and Tim Reese, serving in the Dominican Republic

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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

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