



*Photo by Marcel Eberle, Vaduz Cathedral
Vaduz, Liechtenstein*



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE
DECEMBER 31, 2023
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE
DECEMBER 31, 2023

*What shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling/ in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly/ up the path, to the door.
And still I believe you will/ come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,/ the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering
sea-goose, know/ that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,/ as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.*

-Mary Oliver

Gathering Music

"Ding, Dong! Merrily on High"

Traditional/French carol arranged by Robert Vandall, © 2015 by Alfred Music. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam/ Arr. by Cindy Berry. © 2019 by Alfred Music Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Call to Worship

Aimee Omohundro

One: The good news begins —

All: and it moves fast!

One: Listen out for the messenger proclaiming:

All: world-changing good news is coming!

One: Come now and join the story,

All: good news reverberating through earth and heaven!

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymns of Praise (CONGR 126, vs. 1-2)

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

(CONGR 123, vs. 1,5,6)

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

CHRISTMAS

(CONGR 125, vs. 1,2,4)

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

* 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 106, v 3)

"He is Born"

IL EST NE

He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!

He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior mild.

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a Child among us;

Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

He is born, the divine Christ Child; play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!

He is born, the divine Christ Child; sing we all of the Savior mild.

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

Psalm Reading

Aimee Omohundro

Psalm 91:9-12

Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 144)

"Oh, Come, Little Children"

SCHULTZ

Children's Sermon

Rev. Cristina Adams

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 132)

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

CAROL

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Unison Discipline of Confession

You come into our lives, O God, embodying your kingdom and inviting us in. We confess that we can't quite see how to live your way while also being secure in the world's way. Forgive us, loving God, and return us to the way you reveal. Forgive us for hiding our vulnerability behind an image we can never let slip. Forgive us for neglecting your good news when it is too different than the economy's expectations. Forgive us for our way of life that points to ourselves rather than to you. Give us courage to follow you in the wilderness and in the world.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends God has come near — though the kingdom may feel far off, the truth is that in Christ, God comes to us in order that we too might know ourselves close to God. Hear and believe the good news: the time is fulfilled, God is with us, so that we may be with God. Let your life reflect your forgiveness.

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

"Once in Royal David's City"

Henry J. Gauntlett (1848)/ Arr. Richard Walters. © 1995 by Brassworks Music, Inc./Distributed by Hal Leonard Publishing

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RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

God at Work: What FBC Means to Me

Offertory

"Silent Night"

Franz Gruber/ Arr. by Dennis Alexander © 1992 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

* Gospel Reading

Mark 1.1-20

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

People: Thanks be to God

Ministry of Music

"Long Ago in Bethlehem"

C.K. Offer/ Arr. Phyllis Tate. © 1962 Oxford University Press. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

"Holy Dissenters: John and Jesus"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 131)

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM

Life of the Church

Postlude

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

Traditional Spiritual. Arr. Cindy Berry. © 2019 by Alfred Music. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Aimee Omohundro

Director of Worship Music and Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Substitute Organist & Pianist/Accompanist: Dr. Christy Miller

Special Music: Joanna Gillette, soprano. Neal Purvis, trombone

Livestream Video Crew: Steve Yoder, Joanna Gillette Sound: Jim Lord

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Laura McCorkill

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Praise Temple Church of God in Christ

ABC, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Mark Thompson, serving churches in Indiana & Kentucky

International Ministries Missionaries: Kathy & Tim Rice, serving the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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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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