



THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 3, 2023  
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
FBC SANCTUARY  
11:00 A.M.

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Gathering Music

“Advent Medley”

Arr. Marilyn Ham. © 1985 Lillenas Pub. Co. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Paul Manz. © 2002 Birnamwood Publications/MorningStar Music Pub. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

\* Lighting the Candle of Peace

The Johnston Family

One: Looking around at the world, it's easy to lose heart.

**All: The evidence we see doesn't look good – we need a big breakthrough.**

One: We want to believe God's promise,

**All: but some days it's hard going.**

One: Into this world, where so much is wrong,

**All: into this weary world where we struggle along,**

One: God speaks: The days are surely coming.

**All: The days are surely coming!**

One: It seems impossible, and yet...

**All: Any moment could be the moment God breaks through. The days are surely coming when God will fulfill the promise.**

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

\* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 83)

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

\* Passing of the Peace

Brandon Gillette

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. 1)

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

PLEADING SAVIOR

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let every hill and valley a level road appear! The hope of every nation, God's promise of salvation. Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!**

\* Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-29

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Herb Frombach (ASCAP)/David Lantz III (ASCAP)/Craig Courtney (ASCAP). © 2007/2008 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.  
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"Come Flood This Heart of Mine"

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Unison Discipline of Confession

**We love the word hope, but we confess that we are easily seduced by the shallow, naive hope that ignores the trauma of the world, which offers platitudes, wishing for them to be good enough. Or which holds off, not allowing any hope until the pain is already over. But your hope, O God, is rooted in reality. Forgive us for the times we've dismissed hope as naive, assuming it can't help us now. Forgive us for insisting on choosing either suffering or hope, rather than holding both as true. Make space in us for your new world to become a possibility, that we may trust you in the hardest of days and look for your promise to break through.**

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is the source of our real and sincere hope!*

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

God at Work: What FBC Means to Me

Offertory

Gustav Holst/Mark Hayes. © 2010 Lorenz Pub. Co./Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

\* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Rev. Cristina Adams  
Jeremiah 33:1-3, 10-16

Sermon

Rev. Cristina Adams  
"Holy Dissenters: Jeremiah"

CELEBRATING THE TABLE OF GRACE

Call to Communion

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

Lyrics/Music: Traditional. © 1987 Birdwing Music (Admin. By the Sparrow Corp.) Used with permission CCLI #20126570

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

Invitation to the Table

Celebration of the Bread and Cup

“Draw Me Close” Kelly Carpenter/Marilynn Ham. © 1994 Mercy/Vineyard Pub./Alfred Music  
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\* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 85)

“Christians All, Your Lord is Coming”  
PLEADING SAVIOR

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”  
Thomas Olivers /Wilbur Held. © 1997 MorningStar Music Pub. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

*Liturgist: Brandon Gillette*

*Director of Worship Music and Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson*

*Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen*

*Vocalist: Joe Karnes*

*Livestream Video Crew: Brenda Schenkel, Steve Yoder*

*Sound: Chad Johnston*

*YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Hannes Combest*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Local Church: New Hope Fellowship*

*ABC, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn, serving churches in North & South Dakota*

*International Ministries Missionary: Rodney Ragwan, serving as a global consultant in Theological Education*

*Cover Photo from Pixabay*

*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*