



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
JANUARY 7, 2024
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
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For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?

-bell hooks

Gathering Music

“Christmas Rejoicing” (Medley)

Arr. Marilyn Ham. © 1988 Lillenas Publishing Co.

“Worship the King” (A Christmas Medley)

Arr. Marilyn Ham. © 1987 Lillenas Publishing Co. Both pieces: Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting the Christ Candle

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

Overture to "Unto Us A Child Is Born"

Bach/Arr. Franklin Ritter. ©1985 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Call to Worship

Joe Karnes

Leader: Come, gather round –

People: seeking a word, seeking hope, seeking healing,

All: Jesus, living Word of God, is here.

Leader: Come, gather round, for Jesus is calling us –

People: from ordinary work, from long traditions, from friends and family,

All: Jesus invites us to new life with him.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 124)

“The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

* 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 137 Vs. 4 and 5)

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

FRENCH CAROL

From the eastern country came the kings afar, bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price; there was ne'er a stable

so like paradise. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we

now Noel!

Psalm Reading

Joe Karnes

Psalm 103.6-14

Children's Sermon

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

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 151)

“We Three Kings”
KINGS OF ORIENT

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Unison Discipline of Confession

With-us God, your love for your world brought you among us, and you surround yourself with all kinds of people. We confess that we aren't sure about all of them, though. You say now is the time, and yours is the way, but we admit we aren't quite ready for what you're proposing. Forgive us when we look down on the very people you came to love and serve. Forgive us when we can't quite stretch to include all your people in our own community, and when we insist no one else should either. Forgive us for the many times when your Body, the Church, does not reflect your life on earth. Gather us in and open our hearts to sit at table with all your people, celebrating and creating the community of love you bring to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus proclaims, “child, your sins are forgiven.” Hear his promise once again!

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

“Saw You Never in the Twilight”

Cecil Frances Alexander/Tom Porter, quoting a 15th-century French melody
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RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

God at Work: What FBC Means to Me

Offertory

“The Star Carol” (Alfred Burt Carol)

Arr. Mark Hayes. © 1985 Shawnee Press, Inc./1983 GlorySound. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

*Gospel Reading

Mark 2.1-12

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

“Breaking Holes in Our Expectations”

CELEBRATING THE TABLE OF GRACE

Invitation to the Table

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

Celebration of the Bread and Cup

“The Shepherd’s Cradle Song” German Carol/Hall M. Macklin. © 1990 Lorenz Pub. Co./ The Lorenz Corp.
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*Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 122)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
IN DULCI JUBILO

*Life of the Church

*Benediction

Postlude

“Joy to the World”
G.F. Handel/Lani Smith. © 1987 Lorenz. Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used with permission CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Liturgist: Joe Karnes

Director of Worship Music and Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Livestream Video Crew: Brandon Gillette, Jim Lord Sound: Chad Johnston

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the family of Danny & Meredith (Bagwell) Gray, along with big sister Penny,
following the birth of a daughter, Lenora Elise “Nora” Gray, born on Dec. 28th.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Redeemer Lutheran Church

ABC, USA; Region Exe. Min. Rev. Andy Quient, serving churches in Los Angeles, Southwest & Hawaii

International Ministries Missionary: Toya Richards, serving in South Africa

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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 – jenny@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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