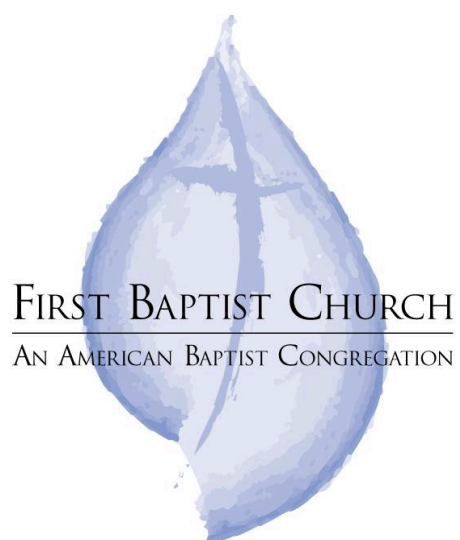




Photo by Waldemar Brandt



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Christmas comes, but not yet. / Before we celebrate, let us wait, / taking time to remember who is coming, / time to prepare our lives, / time to look outwards in love: / "Christmas waits to come. / Gently count the days: / time to wait and walk with God, / time to fill with praise."

– "The Art of Waiting" by Brian Wren

Gathering Music

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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

Welcome

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

"Come, O Savior of the World"

Glenn Medlock. © 1987 Lorenz. Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Lighting the Candle of Hope

The Pauls Family

Leader: There are five candles. We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

Leader: Because the old proverb is true: "What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand."

People: As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

Leader: The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding."

Leader: Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle, trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us. Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.

People: We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 83)

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

* Passing of the Peace

Rev. John Williams

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

* Responding in Peace (CONGR 87 v 1)

"Arise, Your Light Has Come"

FESTAL SONG

* Gospel Reading

Luke 21.25–28, 36

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*

Children's Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

* Call to Prayer (CONGR 81)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
PICARDY

Hearing our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Cristina Adams

Unison Discipline of Confession

Holy God, we confess and lament the violence of our world and our fascinated bondage to military might, merciless justice, self-righteous revenge, and national pride. Shine on us from the cradle of your vulnerability that forgiveness, mercy, and kindness may glow and grow among us through Jesus Christ.

Discipline of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Emmanuel, God-with-us, hears our cry of lament and bathes us with grace. 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

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"The Gifts We Give"
Words & music: Kyle Matthews. © 2003 BMG Songs, Inc./See For Yourself Music (ASCAP).
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* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

Old Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
Habakkuk 1.1-5 and 2.1-4

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant
"The World in Solemn Stillness Lay: Habakkuk"

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 113)

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Wilbur Held. © 1997 Morning Star Music Publishers. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant
Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, & Families: Rev. Cristina Adams
Liturgist: Rev. John Williams • Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen
Director of Worship Music & Vocal Soloist: Mark Robinson
Livestream Video Crew: Jim Lord, Steve Yoder • Sound: Shane Schenkel
YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Hannes Combest

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: First Southern Baptist Church
ABCUSA: Interim Exe. Ministers Rev. Carol McVetty & Rev. Douglas Harris,
serving the American Baptist churches of Metro Chicago
International Ministries Global Servant: Sue Hegarty, serving in Costa Rica

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Opening quote, Advent candle litany, and Discipline of Confession are from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced by permission. © 2007 by Brian Wren.

Assurance of Pardon is by FBC Pastors Rev. Cristina Adams and Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant.

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