



Photo by Rachel Esperida



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025

[God] has not stopped issuing invitations to us, His children, to come to the stable in Bethlehem. He is continually beckoning each of us to draw nearer, to drop the stressful pace of our lives and enter into the miracle of His story with the open eyes and hearts and hands of little children. God has a gift for us this Christmas. But we must stop all our rushing around if we are to receive that gift.

– Claire Cloninger

Gathering Music

“Away in a Manger—3 Tunes”

Music in the public domain. Arr. Evelyn Falen. Used by permission of Evelyn Falen.

“What Child Is This?”

Arr. William C. Dix. © 1986 Beam Me Up Music—CPP/Belwin, Inc.; © 1995 Warner Bros./Alfred Music.
Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Welcome

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

“Lift Up Your Heads”

Arr. Lani Smith. © 1989 Lorenz. Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Lighting the Candle of Joy

Leader: In the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer points to Jesus: “As the people were filled with expectation,...questioning whether John might be the Messiah, John answered them by saying,

Leader: “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming....He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

People: If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for, and more than we bargained for.

Leader: We light our third candle to praise God, whose Spirit comes to us with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

Leader: Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you.

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

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 79)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
VENI EMMANUEL

* Passing of the Peace

Neal Purvis

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 3)

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”
FESTAL SONG

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 11.7-11

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Overture)

"Christmas Is Calling You Home"

Claire Cloninger/Mark Hayes; arr & orchestrated by Mark Hayes. © 1991 Word Music
(a div. of Word, Inc.) Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Special Presentation by the Chancel Choir and FBC Players

"Christmas is Calling You Home"

Claire Cloninger/Mark Hayes; arr & orchestrated by Mark Hayes. © 1991 Word Music
(a div. of Word, Inc.) Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Life of the Church

Benediction

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

G.F. Handel/Franklin Ritter. © 1981 Lorenz. Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant

Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, & Families: Rev. Cristina Adams

Liturgist: Neal Purvis • Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist: Evelyn Falen

Director of Worship Music & Chancel Choir Director: Mark Robinson

Livestream Video Crew: Steve Yoder, Brandon Gillette • Sound: Glenn Prescott

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Kylee Johnston

Cover photo by Rachel Esperida on Unsplash. Free to use under the Unsplash license: <https://unsplash.com/license>. Downloaded 12/11/2025 at <https://unsplash.com/photos/a-person-holding-a-lit-candle-in-their-hands-vzzfRFQYdf0>.

Advent candle litany is from Brian Wren, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and is reproduced by permission. © 2007 by Brian Wren.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1330 KASOLD DRIVE, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66049
PHONE: 785/843.0020 * FAX: 785/843.0021 * EMAIL: OFFICE@FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTLAWRENCE.COM