



the word became flesh 3/50 E. Herrel '80

"The Word Became Flesh"
by Edie Mae Herrel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
An American Baptist Congregation

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE
DECEMBER 28, 2025
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
FBC SANCTUARY
11:00 A.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE
DECEMBER 28, 2025

This Christmas, will I recognize God's presence in my world?
— Joyce Rupp

Gathering Music

“Back to Bethlehem” (Medley)

Arr. Marilynn Ham. © 1988 Lillenas Pub. Co. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Cristina Adams

Prelude

“Christmas Medley”

Marilyn Rinehart. © 1988 Lorenz Pub. Co/The Lorenz Corp. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Call to Worship

Joanna Gillette
Luke 2

Leader: When Jesus was born, an angel appeared to shepherds, saying—

People: **Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

LIFTING OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

* Hymn of Praise (CONGR 126)

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
REGENT SQUARE

* Passing of the Peace

Joanna 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!**

* Responding in Peace (CONGR 125 vv 1 & 3)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
GLORIA

Children’s Sermon

SHARING OURSELVES IN PRAYER

Call to Prayer (CONGR 107 vv 1, 2, & 4)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
ST. LOUIS

Hearing Our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Cristina Adams

Unison Christmas Blessing

May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land. May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day. May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

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

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; this arr. by Stan Pethel. © 1996 Hal Leonard Corporation.
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RETURNING OUR GIFTS IN GRATITUDE

Sentences of Stewardship

Offertory

"The Star Carol"

Alfred Burt/Mark Hayes. © 1983 GlorySound/Shawnee Press, Inc. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH WITH HOPE

* Gospel Reading

Rev. Cristina Adams
John 1.1-5, 14

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Poetry Reading

"The First Coming"

Written by Madeleine L'Engle

Song of Response (CONGR 146)

"One Small Child"
ONE SMALL CHILD

Poetry Reading

"Incarnations of God"
Written by Lee Carlson; read by Christy Courier

Song of Response (CONGR 148 vv 1 & 3)

"What Child is This"
GREENSLEEVES

Poetry Reading

"E-manuel"
Written and read by LaMoine Tatum

Song of Response (CONGR 106)

"He is Born"
IL EST NÉ

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

Poetry Reading

“The Word Became Flesh...”
Written by Lee Carlson; read by Christy Courier

Song of Response (CONGR 104 vv 1-3)

“Once in Royal David’s City”
IRBY

Poetry Reading

“The Work of Christmas”
Written by Howard Thurman

* Hymn of Invitation (CONGR 122)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ”
IN DULCI JUBILO

* Life of the Church

* Benediction

Postlude

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Felix Mendelssohn/Lani Smith. © 1978 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.
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TODAY IN WORSHIP

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

Liturgist: Joanna Gillette • Poetry Readers: Christy Courier, LaMoine Tatum

Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen • Trombone Soloist: Neal Purvis

Livestream Video Crew: Susan Pauls, Glenn Prescott • Sound: Shane Schenkel

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Hannes Combest

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Local Church: Free State Church (formerly Faith Church of the Nazarene)

ABCUSA: Exec. Min. Rev. Brian D. Johnson, serving the American Baptist Churches of Michigan

International Ministries Global Servant: Carmella Jones, serving in Hungary

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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
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Senior Pastor
Assoc. Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families
Administrative Support Manager
Bookkeeper
Building Manager
Digital Media Manager
Director of Worship Music
Organist & Chancel Choir Accompanist
8:38 a.m. Worship Pianist

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