



First Baptist Church

J E F F E R S O N C I T Y T E N N E S S E E

December 17, 2023

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

10:45 am

Third Sunday in Advent--JOY

Welcome/Opportunities for Service/Invocation Chad Hartsock

Prelude *We Three Kings* arr. Dobrinski

Handbells: Julia Bass, Thomas Bass, Daniel Garber, Susan Garber, Kaylin Hartsock, Steven Lloyd,
Kristi Sanford, Addison Snyder, Caroline Snyder, Noah Snyder; Angie France, director

Call to Worship—Light of JOY Reading Clark Measels and Pam Hester

Advent Wreath Lighting— Joel and Kristi Sanford,
Caroline, Noah, and Addison Snyder, Judy Olive

Hymn of JOY *While by the Sheep We Watched* TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL

Worship Ensemble

Born is the Child in manger small
whom God has sent to save us all.

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Source of our joy, to Thee we raise
Our grateful songs of endless praise.

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo!

Glory to God in the heavens on high!

Gloria, gloria in excelsis deo!

Glory to God, peace on earth is born this night!

Jesus, the gift from heav'n above,
fills all our hearts with joy and love.

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

(Children meet your leader at the front of the sanctuary for Bible Study)

*Hymn of Joyful Declaration 94

Tell Out My Soul

WOODLANDS

Prayer of the People

Karen Milligan

God, sometimes we scurry so for joy that we forget what it feels like. Sometimes we work so hard for peace that we neglect the peace that is sitting with us in our chair. Sometimes we hope so much for hope that we miss the hopeful signs that are right underfoot. Give us this day, a song, one we sing in harmony with heaven and nature. Let the song recollect joy, be peace itself, let the song hope a little ahead of our own hope. You grant us joy and peace and hope: these are not our own accomplishments. Let this day find us joyful, singing about you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer Response 81

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (verse 1 only)

PICARDY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

Clyde Harrell

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation."
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say on that day:
"Give thanks to the Lord;
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

*Hymn of Advent 79

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Offertory Prayer

Ken Morton

Offertory

The First Noel
Becky Burton Walker, harp

arr. Walker

So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Offering

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. O'Mear

Becky Walker, harp; Julia Bass, flute; Angie France, piano

Sermon

Finding Christmas in An Unexpected Place: Ruth

Mike Wilkins

*Hymn of Invitation

Come to My Heart (sing to tune 165)

Baxley/Elliott

Lord you left your throne and your kingly crown

when you came to earth for me,

but in Bethlehem was there found no room—

for your holy nativity.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,

there is room in my heart for you.

Make a home in my heart, Lord Jesus,

There is room in my heart for you.

Preparing to Depart

Once in Royal David's City

arr. Berry

(Please remain seated and reflect on our worship together.)

*Departing 80

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love (verse 3 only)

BAUGH

*Benediction

Mike Wilkins

**Adapted from *On Tiptoes in Expectation*, by Donna Schaper, Abingdon Press, 2003

*If you can do so, please stand for this portion of the worship service.

CCLI #120972

THE COMING WEEK AT FBC

Monday, December 18

8:00pm Upper Room Ladies' Bible Study/ Zoom

Tuesday, December 19

10:00am Tuesday's Neighbors/Parlor

1:00pm Staff Meeting/Parlor

Wednesday, December 20

5:00pm Churchwide Caroling/meet in side parking lot

No Youth gathering, WNS, or Ensemble rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

6:00pm Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 22—Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service

10:45am Worship Service/Sanctuary or Facebook and YouTube

Monday, December 25—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

No church activities

Thursday, December 28—Church Office Closed

Friday, December 29—Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 31

10:00am Chancel Ensemble Rehearsal/Sanctuary

10:45am Worship Service/Sanctuary or Facebook and YouTube

10:45am Children's Bible Study/Birth-K Room 119, 1st-5th grade-Room 218

Monday, January 1—Church Office Closed

Welcome to First Baptist Church! Our membership is open to all persons regardless of race, social status, gender, and sexual identity and affirms our motto, "Breaking down barriers to proclaim the love of Christ".

CHURCH STAFF

Sierra Bevins, Ministry Assistant

Angie France, Organist

Rev. Josh Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

Dr. Chad Hartsock, Interim Minister for Students

Steven Lloyd, Custodian

Rev. Nenette Measels, Interim Minister of Music

Cameron Rowlett, Video Editor

Gage Rustin, Youth Intern

Melanie Simpson, Pianist

Dr. Mike Wilkins, Interim Pastor

CONTACT US

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30am—4:30pm, closed on Friday

Secure online giving: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now>

Follow us on *Facebook* and *YouTube*