



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 3, 2023

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

10:45 am

Hanging of the Green Service—First Sunday in Advent—HOPE

Welcome and Announcements Chad Hartsock

Pastor Search Committee Report Thomas Milligan

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Page/Weldy

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

Introduction to the Season of Advent Mike Wilkins

Call to Worship *Call to Light –O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Hayes

Worship Ensemble

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

Come to our hearts and in our presence dwell.

We wait in hope for peace once again.

Return to us the joy of Bethlehem.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love, our darkness to dispel.

Light of HOPE Reading Clark Measels and Pam Hester

Advent Wreath Lighting—Liz, Ellie, and Xander Coyne Family

*Hymn of Preparation 83 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

(Congregation sing verse 1 only, melody)

Worship Ensemble

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free.

From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Come, Thou hope of our salvation, Promised One by prophets foretold.

With sincere anticipation, hearts like flowers before Thee unfold.

As the saints who came before us, patiently we call on Thee.

Lifting our voices, we join in the chorus of the faithful who long for Thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Wreaths & Poinsettias

Reading Mike Wilkins

We now hang greenery representing the hope of eternal life and the unchanging nature of God. Wreaths symbolize the never-ending love of God and the circle of life. Poinsettias festively display the colors of the season.

Hymn 82

Light the Light, the Fire of Life

IL EST NE

Prayer of Confession

Karen Smith

Eternal God, for whom all people wait and search, even when they don't realize it, we cry out today for a live and present Word from you. As our season of discontent approaches the day of your coming, we pray that you would speak to us in the graceful ways that you know best.

Open our eyes that have been closed by fear and blinded by self-pity, that we may see you even in the anxieties and uncertainties that surround our days and threaten to overwhelm us like a cloud of darkness. Help us to see that amid the hustle and bustle of this holiday time the crowded stores and rude shoppers, the impatient drivers, the frayed generosity—you have become Emmanuel, God with us, blessing the smallest tasks of love, generosity, and kindness that we are enabled by your grace to perform.

We pray that the promise of your birth—that peace shall be on earth—may soon be fulfilled, both in our troubled hearts and in our troubled world. Come to us, Lord, for we need your presence in our own lives. Touch us anew with hope through Jesus Christ, who is the joy of those who are happy and the comfort of those who mourn. Amen.**

Hymn 80

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love (verse 1 only)

BAUGH

Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Bill Rosser

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Tree and Chrismons

Reading Mike Wilkins

Hang symbols and signs of Christ—ruler, prophet, priest. Hang stars, crosses, triangles, the “alpha” and the “omega” to remind us of his identity, his story, and of the holy Trinity.

Musical Offering arr. Christopher
Angels from the Realms of Glory
Angie France, Melanie Simpson, organ/piano duet

Nativity

Reading Mike Wilkins

In humility Jesus gave up the wealth of heaven to come to the poverty of this world. In the same way, the good news of the birth of the Savior was first announced, not to royalty or to the wealthy, but to humble shepherds in the fields outside Jerusalem.

Hymn 134 STILLE NACHT
Silent Night, Holy Night
Cameron Rowlett, guitar

Offertory Prayer Jim Wilson

Offertory arr. Pethel/KIm
In Dulci Jubilo

Sermon Scripture Reading Mike Wilkins
Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Mes-
siah, fourteen generations.

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

Sermon ***Finding Christmas in An Unexpected Place:*** Mike Wilkins
Tamar, Bathsheba, and Rahab

*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 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* arr. Forrest
(Please remain seated and reflect on our worship together.)

*Departing 80 *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* (verse 1 only) BAUGH

Benediction Mike Wilkins

Called Business Meeting to vote on 2024 Budget

*If you can do so, please stand for this portion of the worship service. CCLI #1209725

**Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd Edition*, 2013, Faith Alive
Christian Resources.

Deacons and Minister of the Week: Susan Garber & Carey Herring / Chad Hartsock

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A PLACE AT THE
TABLE
FOR EVERYONE

100% OF YOUR GIFT
to the Offering for Global Missions
will support the presence of CBF
field personnel serving in the U.S.
and around the world.

LUKE 14:12-14

**Our offering goal through
the end of December 2023:
\$5,000**

cbf OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS
BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

THE COMING WEEK AT FBC

Monday, December 4

7:00pm Boy Scouts/Fellowship Hall
8:00pm Upper Room Ladies' Bible Study/ Zoom

Tuesday, December 5

10:00am Tuesday's Neighbors/Parlor
1:00pm Staff Meeting/Parlor

Wednesday, December 6

5:00pm Youth Gathering/214
5:00pm Wednesday Night Supper/Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Pastoral Candidate Information Session with PSC/Fellowship Hall
7:00pm Worship Ensemble Rehearsal/Music Ste

Thursday, December 7

8:30am Men's Breakfast/Bojangles
6:00pm Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 8—Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 9

10:00am Meet & Greet—Pastoral Candidate/Fellowship Hall
5:00pm Covered Dish Supper/Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Q&A with Pastoral Candidate/Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 10—Pastoral Candidate Preaching

9:30am Bible Study Classes/Rooms: 102, 104, 108, 212
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
5:00pm Youth Gathering/214

Monday, December 11

7:00pm Boy Scouts/Fellowship Hall
8:00pm Upper Room Ladies' Bible Study/ Zoom

Tuesday, December 12

10:00am Tuesday's Neighbors/Parlor
1:00pm Staff Meeting/Parlor

Wednesday, December 13

5:00pm Youth Gathering/214
5:00pm Wednesday Night Supper/FH
6:00pm Common Prayer & Bible Study/Music Ste
6:45pm Worship Ensemble Rehearsal/Music Ste
7:15pm Budget & Finance Committee Meeting/Parlor

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

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2023 Advent Services Schedule

DECEMBER 3 - LIGHT OF HOPE

SERMON: TAMAR, BATHSHEBA, AND RAHAB
MATTHEW 1:1-6, 16-17

DECEMBER 10 - LIGHT OF PEACE

SERMON: *THE ADVENT OF PEACE* (PASTORAL CANDIDATE)
MARK 1:1-8

DECEMBER 17 - LIGHT OF JOY

SERMON: *RUTH*
RUTH 1:7-8; 14-18
GUEST MUSICIAN; BECKY BURTON WALKER, HARPIST

DECEMBER 24 - LIGHTS OF LOVE AND CHRIST

SERMON: *MARY*
LUKE 1:26-38
NO EVENING SERVICE

DECEMBER 25 - NO SERVICES

