



# 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

January 7, 2024

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

10:45 am

Epiphany

Welcome/Opportunities for Service Nenette Measels

Presentation Bruce Davenport

Invocation Nenette Measels

Prelude Getty/arr. Benett

*Joy Has Dawned*

Call to Worship SIYAHAMBA

*We Are Singing for the Lord Is Our Light*  
Worship Ensemble, Mike Wilkins, cajon

We are singing for the Lord is our light,  
We are singing for the Lord is our light,  
We are singing for the Lord is our light,  
We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing,  
We are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing,  
We are singing for the Lord is our light.

Responsive Reading 149 *The Glory Revealed* Caroline and Noah Snyder and People

\*Hymn of Epiphany 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old* DIX

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

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:1-5 George Langley

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Prayer of the People Edna Langley

When our days try to turn into fragments of meaningless pieces and our nights are long and restless, remind us what it's all about—you and your love for the world. We have come together now in the season of Epiphany—meaning the making manifest, the showing forth.

We're now at the end of Jesus' birth and the beginning of all time. We wait with joy for an epiphany. We wait to know what the birth of this baby means for us and for history. Bring us to slow awakening and to true meaning—but let us not be greedy. Let us learn slowly and carefully so that we don't miss anything. Let our knowledge of you grow embryo-like, childlike, just as you so gently have come among us.

Thanks be to you, O God, for all that you do for us and to us, for all the beauty you place before our eyes and for all you intend for us. Be with us in this season and let us comprehend the birth of your Son. Let us change our lives because of it—and grow in us now. Amen.\*\*

Prayer Response of the People

MARGARET

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.

\*Hymn of Epiphany 151

*We Three Kings*

KINGS OF ORIENT

Offertory Prayer

Bethany Davenport

Offertory

*We Three Kings*

arr. Hayes

Sermon Scripture Reading

John 1:1-18

John Burton

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it and can never extinguish it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him everyone might believe. John himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to his own domain, but his own people did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the One and Only divine Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

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

\*Hymn of God the Son 152

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

COMPLAINER

Musical Offering

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
Worship Ensemble

arr. C.L. Bass

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O Thou of God and man the Son;  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou my soul's glory joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
Robbed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer;  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight  
and all the twinkling starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of all the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Sermon

***The Light in the Darkness***

Mike Wilkins

\*Hymn of Commitment 156 *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (verses 1 and 2 only)

SHINE

Preparing to Depart

*Light of the World*

arr. Bacon

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

\*Departing 156

*Shine, Jesus, Shine* (verse 3 only)

SHINE

\*Benediction

Mike Wilkins

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

CCLI #120972

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

**Deacons & Minister of the Week:**

Susan Garber & Carey Herring / Chad Hartsock

## THE COMING WEEK AT FBC

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### **Monday, January 8**

8:00pm Upper Room Ladies Bible Study/Zoom

### **Tuesday, January 9**

10:00am Tuesday's Neighbors/Parlor

1:00pm Staff Meeting/Parlor

### **Wednesday, January 10**

5:00pm Youth Gathering/214

6:00pm Common Prayer & Bible Study/Music Suite

6:45pm Chancel Ensemble Rehearsal/Music Suite

7:15pm Budget & Finance Committee Meeting/Parlor

### **Thursday, January 11**

8:30am Men's Breakfast/Bojangles, Jefferson City

2:00pm Senior Fellowship Team Meeting/301

**Friday, January 12—Church Office Closed**

### **Sunday, January 14**

9:30am Bible Study Classes for All Ages/Various Rooms

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

12:00pm Churchwide Soup/Sandwich Luncheon welcoming the Treadways and appreciating the Pastor Search Committee/FH

2:00pm Church Advisory Counsel Meeting/214

5:00pm Youth Gathering/214

### **Monday, January 15**

5:00pm Genealogy Society Meeting/FH

8:00pm Upper Room Ladies Bible Study/Zoom

### **Tuesday, January 16**

10:00am Tuesday's Neighbors/Parlor

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**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".**

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## CHURCH STAFF

Sierra Bevins, Ministry Assistant

Angie France, Organist

Ricke Hester, Interim Administrative Coordinator

Dr. Chad Hartsock, Interim Minister for Students

Steven Lloyd, Custodian

Rev. Nenet Measels, Interim Minister of Music

Cameron Rowlett, Video Editor

Melanie Simpson, Pianist

Dr. Mike Wilkins, Interim Pastor

## CONTACT US

1610 Russell Avenue, Jefferson City, Tennessee 37760

Phone: (865) 475-3826 | website: [www.fbcjeff.org](http://www.fbcjeff.org)

**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*