

A Service of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

11:00 a.m.

As we enter sacred space for worship, quiet your heart and mind, centering your thoughts on God's presence among us.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prelude Greensleeves Purvis
A. Robert Chapman, organ

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

People: As we gather to pray and sing and listen, a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.

Leader: The days are surely coming, says Our God, when justice and righteousness will prevail.

People: May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds, freeing us to respond joyfully to God's call in the days to come.

Invocation & Lord's Prayer Dr. Grammer

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 trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 133 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

With Minds Prepared

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16 Erica James

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle Erica & Marcus James
Ella & Charlotte

We light the Candle of Hope, and dare to open the dark places in our lives to the healing light of Christ. May our hearts be prepared for the coming of Christ and the creative, transformative power of hope.

*Please stand as you are able

Advent Response

Candles Glowing, Promise Showing

Elana Levy

(see insert)

Children's Worship

Pastor Ashley

After children's worship, children age 5 and under are invited to join our nursery workers for age-appropriate children's church.

*Hymn 142 Long Ago, Prophets Knew PERSONENT HODIE

Prayer of Commitment Dr. Grammer

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Anthem Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arr. Ford

Sermon Prophetic Hope Dr. Grammer

With Lived Hope

*Song of Response

Hymn 135 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

*Benediction Dr. Grammer

*Response Amen DRESDEN

Postlude Sleepers, Awake! Manz

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of both joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of preparation.

Welcome to our guest organist Robert Chapman.

Advent Candle Spotlight-Marcus & Erica James, Ella & Charlotte Each Sunday during Advent, we will have one of our church families read the scripture texts and light the candles of the Advent wreath. Reading the text today is Erica & Marcus James, Ella & Charlotte.

Together with their daughters Ella Catherine and Charlotte Wren, Marcus and Erica have been attending First Baptist Church since 2020, first in the Journey Small Group Zoom, then online worship, and now in person. They have been living in both Martinsville and Henry County since 2009. Both Marcus and Erica are originally from Marion and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Marcus and Erica met in college and have been married for almost 11 1/2 years. They made the move to Virginia because they fell in love

with this area. The bonus to this area was family that lived here at that time. Almost all of their family still resides in South Carolina. Prior to the pandemic, they spent a lot of time traveling home to see family or having family traveling to see them.

They have two dogs, Paisley Rae (golden retriever) and Bond Baxter (Border Collie/Lab), as well as three cats, Prince Henry of Spinach, Allison, and Sookie. They also have a rabbit named McFlurry.

Ella graduated from the Early Learning Center here at First Baptist Church right as the Pandemic hit in early 2020. She became a part of the ELC as a 6-month-old in 2015. She is currently in first grade at Carver Elementary and doing splendidly all thanks to her amazing early start with the preschool program.

Charlotte, also known as Charlie, started in the ELC at 6 weeks old back in 2017. She is currently in the three-year-old classroom. She loves her teachers and friends so much.

Marcus works as a banker at Wells Fargo in Bassett. He loves spending his free time with his family and friends. Cooking new recipes and discovering new music. Erica is a PALS reading tutor also at Carver Elementary. She enjoys her students, spending time with her family and friends, crafting, singing, and dancing as much as possible.

Together as a family they love having adventures traveling and seeing new things. They also love cooking, going to museums, art, music, performances and spending as much time as possible practicing and growing their talents.

Worship is Live Streamed on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning at the worship hour and a video recording is posted on the church website/YouTube page within 24-48 hours. To listen by phone during the worship hour: **Zoom Call-in Number:** 1-833-548-0276; Meeting ID: 276 632 6336 #, #

Children's Worship Bags for all ages are in the Narthex (foyer at the back of the Sanctuary). These bags are intended to help children process what they are hearing and seeing as they worship with their families. Please return the bags after worship so they can be used in our next service.

Prayer Reminder

CHURCH FAMILY: John Abbott, Alice Bowman, Judy Szulecki Bunin, Mary Clifton, Darnell Cockram, Martha Crawley, Helen Dandridge, Martha Drane, Judy Epperly, Smitty & Ann Grogan, Ted Hatcher, George Lester, Marvin Midkiff, Betty Minter, Betty Prillaman, Shirley Roark, Jimmie Sexton, Benny Shires, Irene Simpson, Stacey Steagall, Shirley Stone, Yvonne Turner, Gayle Williams

November Birthdays: 29 Libby Grammer

December Birthdays: 4 Lee Lester, Jeanette Stone, 6 Jean Rood, 11 Danny Baptist, 13 Ebb Williams, Howard Fringer, 26 James Stokes, 31 Jim Frith

In Christian Sympathy to Danny Winn and his family on the loss of his father, James Winn. A graveside service was held December 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas poinsettias in the Sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the insert and return it to the church office by December 13th. Names will be included in the Sunday, December 19th bulletin.

Worship Care Schedule

Sunday, November 28th - Marsha Garren

Sunday, December 5th - Roslyn Wingett

Deacons of the Month: Sylvia Knight and Linda Moore

Deacons of the month assist your pastor and other deacons with visitation as needed.

Grace Network Oct.-Dec. 2021 Food Assignment

Green Peas (15 oz.) Please drop the food off at the church.

Opportunities for the Week

Sunday, November 28

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School-Rm 105-107/Zoom

9:45 a.m. Journey Small Group-Rm 110/Zoom

9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School-Church Nursery

11:00 a.m. Worship-In-Person/Virtual

Monday, November 29

10:00 a.m. Children's Chapel-Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 1

5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary

Thursday, December 2

10:00 a.m. Bible Study-Zoom

3:00 p.m. Building & Grounds/Trustees Meeting

5:00 p.m. Caroling at Piedmont Arts- Art Garden

Saturday, December 4

4:00 p.m. Young Families Christmas Outing-Greensboro

Gratitude for Giving...

GENERAL FUND: A gift has been given in memory of Margaret Lester by Carole Kiser. Gifts have been given in memory of Jean Gray by Judy Epperly, Roger & Sylvia Handy, and Carolyn Dance. A gift has been given in memory of June Pace by David & Dottie Lewis. FULLER DAVIS FUND: Gifts have been given in memory of Jean Gray by Richard & Linda Dorr and Roy & Nancy Thomas. GRACE NETWORK: A gift has been given in memory of Margaret Lester and June Pace by Roy & Nancy Thomas. HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: A gift has been given in honor of Libby Grammer by Roy & Nancy Thomas.

Announcements continued on insert...

Welcome to First Baptist Church!

We are #yourcitychurch in Martinsville...

A diverse community of believers coming from many Christian traditions to worship, learn, and grow together as followers of Jesus.

Serving God in our church, our community, and the world by investing our energy and resources to living like Jesus called us to live — in service to God and neighbor.

Growing and changing our ministries to include more variety in our vision so as to meet the needs of our community. Come GROW with us!

If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here.

Come and see what God is doing among us as we worship and serve in Christ's name.

Want to know more? Contact our Pastor: libby@fbcmartinsville.com or 276-632-6336.

Open Invitation

Our congregation wishes to partner with you and your family on a shared journey of faith. Whatever your background, we would love to explore with you how to join with us as we minister to this community together.

Please contact our pastor if you are interested in wanting to know more about following Jesus, how to join this church as an active participant, or if you'd like to recommit yourself to this church and its ministry.

Our doors are always open.



23 Starling Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112
(276) 632-6336

Rev. Dr. Libby M. Grammer
Senior Pastor

Rev. John Fulcher
Interim Minister of Music

Rev. Ashley Harrington
Interim Minister Children & Families

Baxter Jennings
Organist

www.fbcmartinsville.com
facebook.com/FirstBaptistMartinsville/

Mission Statement:

The congregation of First Baptist Church, led by the Holy Spirit, covenants to worship Almighty God and to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Consistent with the Great Commission, we will share our spiritual gifts beyond our doors with enthusiasm, generosity, and grace.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MARTINSVILLE, VA



Season of Advent

MISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign Donations

This Christmas season, in lieu of Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, members of the FBC Women on Mission will be making monetary donations. Help brighten the Christmas season for those in need. The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign directly benefits those in need in our community. Please make your check payable to First Baptist Church. In the memo line please write *Red Kettle*. Kaylee White, FBC Financial Secretary, will write ONE check from FBC WOM for this project. You may bring your check in-person to the church office or mail your check to First Baptist Church, 23 Starling Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. *The deadline for your donation is December 19. Thank you for sharing your generosity and love this Christmas season.*

Churchwide Christmas Missions Offering: Heifer International

Women on Mission & Mission Committee is sponsoring a churchwide Heifer International mission project during December 2021. **Our goal of \$475.00 will enable us to give the gift of a water pump to supply clean water for an entire community and to send a girl to school.** If we exceed our goal, we will supply a hive of honeybees and provide chicks for a family.

All these gifts have education supplied by Heifer to the recipients to enable them to effectively use the gifts for the family or community to eventually be self-supporting. Giving to Heifer in honor of a loved one can be a great Christmas gift for those on your gift list who already have all they need! You may write a check and/or use one of your offering Special Gift envelopes noting “Heifer International” on the “for” line. You can mail or bring it by the church or give online, adding Heifer International in the memo line. *The deadline for our campaign is December 29th.*

Heifer International partners with approximately 1,600 companies who match donations contributed to the organization. During the month of December, Heifer International will triple match our donation totals.

Hymn 133 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine
advent here; and drive away the shades of night,
and pierce the clouds and bring us light! *Refrain*

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly
home; make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill all the world
with heaven’s peace. *Refrain*

*Hymn 142 *Long Ago, Prophets Knew* PERSONENT HODIE

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new, bear his people’s burden,
freely love and pardon.

Refrain

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?

(last verse) we will make him welcome!

God in time, God in man, this is God’s timeless plan:
he will come, as a man, born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Refrain

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed,
In her womb, God is laid till the time expected,
nurtured and protected.

Refrain

Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar: unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!

Refrain

*Song of Response

Hymn 135 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

An Advent Candle Lighting Song

Tune: W Żłobie Leży, a Polish folk melody
(the same as “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021

Hymn *Candles Glowing, Promise Showing* Elana Levy

Hope

Candles glowing, promise showing
the great hope that calms our fear.
Darkness scatters, worry shatters,
Christ will always draw us near.
Calms our sighing, hears our crying,
helps our trying, love undying –
Christ will always draw us near!
Christ will always draw us near!

Each week during Advent, we will add a verse.