

# A Service of Worship

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 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 *He is Born, the Holy Child* Trad. French Carol  
*In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Holst  
Jake Keller, flute

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: Blessed is tiny Bethlehem, from which shall come the ruler of Israel.

**People: Blessed is Mary, who believed in the fulfillment of God's word.**

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Blessed is God, who gives us the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love.**

Invocation & 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 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 161 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

### With Minds Prepared

Old Testament Lesson Micah 5:2-5a Marsha Frith  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-55  
The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle Marsha Frith

*We light the Advent candle of Love, recognizing the gift of the Christ child, by which we know the joy of being loved by our God.*

\*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 155 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

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 *Suite III: the Child in the Manger* arr. Harlan  
Christmas Canticles

Sermon *Laboring Love* Dr. Grammer

### With Lived Love

Meditation *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM  
William Underwood, Bass MYSTERIUM

\*Benediction Dr. Grammer

\*Response 155 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 4)* ST. LOUIS

Postlude *Overture to "Messiah"* Handel  
Baxter Jennings, organ

*Today is the Fourth 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.*

**We Welcome Jake Keller** to our service this morning as flutist. He grew up in Martinsville and attended here at First Baptist Church. Jake later moved to Ohio where he worked for an international engineering firm before retiring to Virginia Beach. He is a cousin of Debby Simpson and Joretta Draper.

**Flowers on the Lord's Table** are given in memory of Annie Lee & Raymond Ferrell by Liz & Duke Ferrell, Ann & Steve Draper, Terry & Stuart Ferrell, and family.

**The Rose on the Lord's Table** is in honor of the birth of James Hampton Collins, born on November 16, 2021. He is the son of John and Katie Collins and the grandson of John and Marcia Collins and the late Laura Collins.

### Advent Candle Spotlight-Marsha Frith

Each Sunday during Advent, we have one of our church families read the scripture texts and light the candles of the Advent wreath. Reading the text today is Marsha Frith, who has been a member at First Baptist since 1997, but her history here is much older. As a kindergarten student in 1963 with Mrs. Louise Fulcher as her teacher, Marsha began her early life with a strong First Baptist influence.

The family history includes mother, Mary Ramsey Frith, grandmother, Bessie Ramsey, and various aunts and cousins as charter members of Oak Level Baptist Church. Additionally, parents Coy and Mary Frith were charter members of Hillcrest Baptist Church during the period that Coy Frith was on the Henry County Baptist Mission Board. Marsha's extended Frith family tree has been involved at First Baptist for decades.

During their younger years, Marsha's son Cisco Fernandez and daughter Alicia Fernandez were part of the daycare and the "Mothers' Morning Out" programs. Many happy occasions were enjoyed here, especially with Minister Nancy Stanton McDaniel and Youth Minister Brian Jones.

Currently, Marsha serves as Chair of the Business and Finance Committee, Treasurer of the church Trustees, Chair of the ReShape Coordination Team, and is happily involved with restarting the sanctuary choir for joyous singing during our services. Her employment history as a Certified Public Accountant has been beneficial for a number of public charities in our area, including First Baptist Church.

**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, Martha Crawley, Helen Dandridge, Martha Drane, Judy Epperly, 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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Offering Envelopes for 2022** - pick up in the Bell Tower.

**Pledges to date for 2022-33** pledges/\$142,242.00

**Pledges in 2021-43** pledges/\$227,825.00

### **Longest Night Service with Chatham Heights Baptist Church**

**Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel\***

This is not always “the most wonderful time of the year” for everyone. Sometimes we need to recognize the reality that even in the midst of colorful lights and celebration, we also face the darkest nights and sometimes the darkest nights of our souls.

During this service, you will be invited to name and light a votive candle for a loss or disappointment you are experiencing. Even if you are unable to attend this service of lament, we invite you to find a time during this season to name the things that are most difficult this season. Remember that though it is dark now, the Light of the world is coming. \*Childcare provided

### **ELC Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary**

**Wednesday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us! This year’s pageant is called “Twas the Night Before.” If you would like to usher or help in the kitchen afterwards, please let Beth or the church office know.

### **Worship Care Schedule**

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>-Sylvia Knight

Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>-Linda Gale

## Opportunities for the Week

### **Sunday, December 19**

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, December 20**

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

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary

### **Tuesday, December 21**

6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service-Chapel

### **Wednesday, December 22**

7:00 p.m. ELC Pageant-Sanctuary

### **Thursday, December 23**

10:00 a.m. Bible Study-Zoom

### **Friday, December 24**

Church Office/ELC Closed-Merry Christmas!

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service-Sanctuary

### **Saturday, December 25**

Richard’s Dinner-Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, December 26**

**No Sunday School**

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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.fbcmartinsville.com)

[facebook.com/FirstBaptistMartinsville/](https://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

FBC Women on Mission have collected to date: \$895.27. Thank you for sharing your generosity and love this Christmas season!

### Churchwide Christmas Missions Offering: Heifer International

Women on Mission & Mission Committee are 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. 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 29<sup>th</sup>.*

During the month of December, Heifer International will triple match our donation totals.

### MHC Warming Center - Volunteers Desperately Needed!

The MHC Warming Center opens when temperatures drop below 35 degrees. It cannot open without dedicated **volunteers** who will make hot meals and deliver them, provide transportation to and from the center, check in the guests at intake, and stay overnight. They are in need of volunteers for overnight shifts and intake shifts to help the center stay open. Please consider volunteering so they don't close the doors to so many in need. Please check the bulletin board or our website for donation needs for the center and drop them off here at the church.

### Grace Network Oct.-Dec. 2021 Food Assignment

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

### Richard's Dinner- Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Annual Home-Cooked Christmas Dinner at the FBC Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to help serve meals, can call Scott Norman directly at 276-732-3422, and donations can be made to Grace Network, 16 Liberty Street, Martinsville, Va., 24112. If anyone is in need of a meal, they can call to reserve a meal at 276-224-5604.

### Gratitude for Giving...

GRACE NETWORK: A gift has been given in memory of Smitty Grogan by Marie Lannom. A gift has been given in memory of Nicholas Haggas by Mary Frances Gibbs.

### Deacons of the Month: Susan Sapp and Bill Sapp

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

\*Hymn 161

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor and meek and lowly loved on earth, our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

\*Hymn 155

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

### 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!

#### Peace

Candles glowing, promise showing  
holy peace so still and bright.  
New tomorrow, free from sorrow:  
Living in Christ's holy light,  
Shunning violence, loving neighbor,  
joy of silence, trust our savior:  
Living in Christ's holy light!  
Living in Christ's holy light!

#### Joy

Candles glowing, promise showing  
joy that fills our very soul.  
Grace abounding, hymns resounding,  
Christ restores and makes us whole.  
Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming,  
justice streaming, Christ redeeming –  
Christ restores and makes us whole!  
Christ restores and makes us whole!

#### Love

Candles glowing, promise showing  
love that makes the world anew.  
Shines in glory, tells the story –  
Christ's own love will see us through.  
With the outcast and unwelcome,  
Christ is steadfast, brings us all home.  
Christ's own love will see us through!  
Christ's own love will see us through!

*Each week during Advent, we will add a verse.*