

A Service of Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight and Holy Communion

December 24, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Prelude *Holley & Ivy* arr. Watson
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Anne Epperly, flute

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: On this holiest of nights,

**People: we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.**

Leader: On this most silent night,

**People: we come, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

Leader: On this night of carols and candlelight,

**People: we come, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels over us.**

Invocation and 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.**

*Carol 171 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10 William Underwood
The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson Luke 2: 1-20
The Gospel of our Lord: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Children's Worship Pastor Ashley & Pastor John
"Away in a Manger"

*Children are invited to come forward for a time of story and song.
Afterwards children will return to their pews to enjoy the remainder of the
service with their families.*

*Please stand as you are able

*Carol 170 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

Christmas Meditation Dr. Grammer

Solo *O, Most Kind of Heart* Silverman/Jennings
Keith Silverman, tenor

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

The Prayer of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Instrumental Meditation

Silent Night arr. Watson
Anne Epperly, flute

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*We light the Christ candle, for in Christ we find light and life, and
the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his
footsteps. Come to us, Lord Jesus; be born in us this night—in our
hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light
of Christ's life be kindled in us.*

Song of Response

Candles Glowing, Promise Showing Elana Levy
(see insert)

Sharing the Light*

*Carol 164 *Silent Night! Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

*Benediction Dr. Grammer

Postlude *Salvation Has Come to Us* Reger
Baxter Jennings, organ

*Pass the Christ Light by lighting the candles of those in your row
with you; keep your candle lit through the benediction.

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 take them home to enjoy!

Please return all candles (real & battery-operated) after the service
to the baskets in the Narthex.

Merry Christmas!

*Carol 171 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings. risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

*Carol 170 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, from heaven's all gracious
King": the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the colven skies they come, with peaceful wings
unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary
world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*Carol 164 *Silent Night! Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer, Senior Pastor

Rev. John Fulcher, Interim Minister of Music

Rev. Ashley Harrington, Interim Minister to Children & Families

Baxter Jennings, Organist

William Underwood, Lay Reader

We welcome Anne Epperly, a member of the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band, where she plays flute and piccolo in the Concert Band and the Heritage Winds Chamber Ensemble. Anne is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Queens College/City University of New York.

We welcome Dr. Keith Silverman, who is a member of the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in his hometown of Danville. Keith sets poetry to original melodies and collaborates with Baxter Jennings to invent creative harmony. He commutes to New Orleans where he teaches various classes at Tulane University.

Our Bulletin art this evening is original work by Baptist minister Suzanne L. Vision. You can find more of her work or order her art at www.silvertreeart.com.

Many Thanks to our dedicated worship team: Kody Kinzer for filming, William Underwood for live streaming, Linda Dorr for editing/posting the video, and Tom Hall for running sound.

Give & Serve with FBC this Christmas Season

Give to the Ministries of FBC Martinsville

Partner with us in ministry by giving in-person at the offering plate at the Sanctuary entrance or online at fbcmartinsville.com/give.

Give to our churchwide Christmas Missions Offering:

Heifer International

Your gift 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. Give in-person or online & designate "Heifer International." *The deadline for our campaign is December 29th.*

Serve at Richard's Dinner

Provide a home-cooked meal to our neighbors Christmas Day, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., FBC Fellowship Hall.

Serve the Martinsville-Henry County Warming Center

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. To learn more or for donation needs, go to our website <https://fbcmartinsville.com/warmingcenter2021> or check the bulletin board in the office hallway.

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.



Rev. Dr. Libby M. Grammer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Ashley Harrington
Interim Minister Children & Families

Rev. John Fulcher
Interim Minister of Music

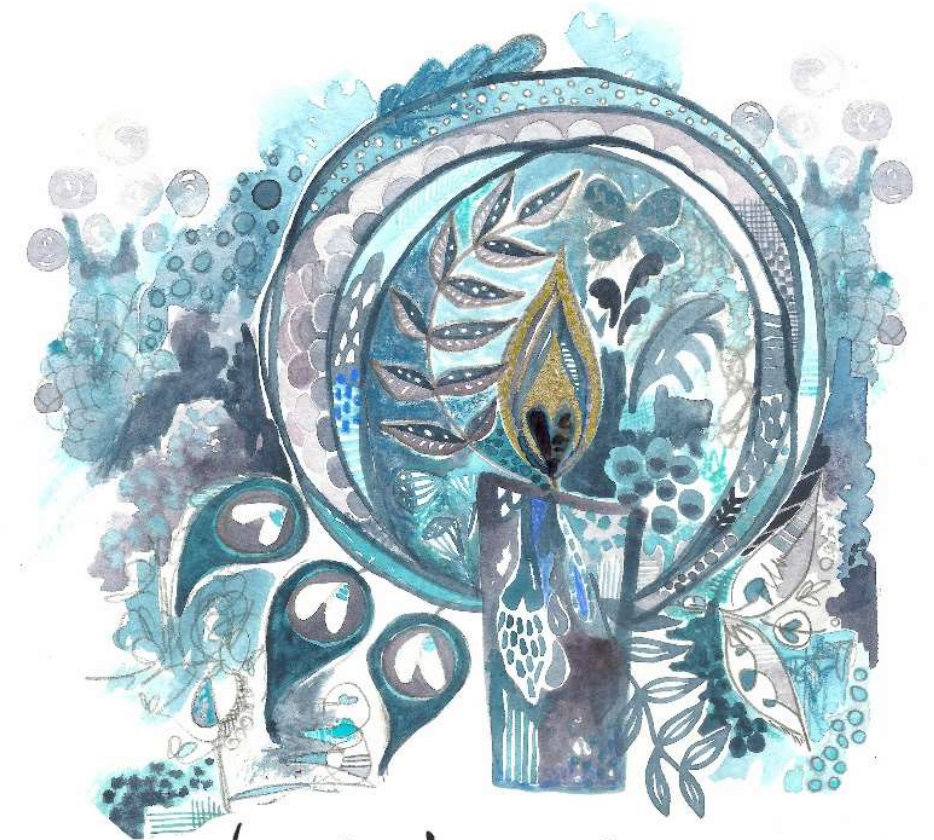
Baxter Jennings
Organist

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



christmas eve