

A Service of Worship & Communion

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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 *Hymn of Peace* Ashford
Baxter Jennings, organ

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Rev. Ashley Harrington & FBC Kids
On Sunday, November 21st, families gathered to create items to help celebrate Advent at home.

This morning, our children will lead us in worship showcasing some of those things they helped create, including a cloth featuring their drawings of what brings them hope, peace, joy, and love.

Leader: As together we await the greatest of gifts,
let us all be God's messengers crying out,

People: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Invocation & Lord's Prayer Rev. Harrington
**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 132 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN

With Minds Prepared

Old Testament Lesson Malachi 3:1-4 Max Hall
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson Luke 1:68-79
The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle Tom & Julie Hall
Chad Coleman
Max Hall & Stacy Davis

*We light the candle of Peace, knowing full well that peace is elusive.
May we trust that even where there is war and discord, God is never
absent from us, but is always gently leading us to new possibilities.*

*Please stand as you are able

Advent Response

Candles Glowing, Promise Showing
(see insert)

Elana Levy

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 136 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* PUER NOBIS

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

African Noel

arr. Harlan

Sermon

A Song of Preparation

Dr. Grammer

*Song of Response

Hymn 165 *I Wonder as I Wander* I WONDER AS I WANDER

Celebration of Communion

Confession (*in unison*)

Dr. Grammer

**Eternal God, we confess that we are still not ready. We
have not yet done all we can to be ready for your reign on
earth as it is in heaven. We have procrastinated and
delayed, and at other times simply forgotten who we are
and who you are in our lives. Call us into noticing this
moment, this time of Advent, this season of preparation.
Help us remember to make the time to allow your peace
to enter in and reign in our hearts.**

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)

**We give you thanks, O God, for seasons like Advent, set
aside to prepare us for your presence. You remind us that
we are never alone as we journey with you, and alongside
so many others, in preparation for your coming into our
lives. Grant us your peace as we seek to see the world
with your eyes and turn from our own way to your
Kingdom way.**

With Lived Peace

*Response 708

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

DENNIS

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Postlude

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted

Handel

***Today is the Second 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.*

Advent Candle Spotlight-Tom & Julie Hall, Chad Coleman, and Max Hall & Stacy Davis

Each Sunday during Advent, we have one of our church families read the scripture texts and light the candles of the Advent wreath. This Sunday is Tom & Julie Hall, Chad Coleman, and Max Hall & Stacy Davis. Tom & Julie Hall were married in our Sanctuary by Dr. Jim Baucom in 1979. Julie grew up at First Baptist, while Tom came to us from Chatham Heights Baptist. Tom serves upstairs on our sound board as well as on the personnel committee and ReShape team. He's also an active deacon. Julie serves on our Children's Committee and Worship Care team. Their elder son, Chad Coleman, has been a member since 1998. Their younger son Max Hall met his wife, Stacey Davis, doing theater at PHCC and they were married here on the Keese Terrace on October 16, 2021.

The Hall family roots with First Baptist Church go as far back as the early 1940s when Julie's mother, Nita Gauldin was a little girl. Nita's older neighbor, Mary Evelyn, invited her to walk to Sunday School when the church building was on Church Street in Martinsville. Mary Evelyn later married Bruce Spencer, who is currently the oldest member of First Baptist. Julie may have been in the very first kindergarten class at First Baptist in the early 1960s.

The Hall family enjoy the beach, their dogs, and spectator sports. Chad Coleman enjoys daily bike rides on The Dick and Willy Trail. Max and Stacey enjoy theater from both the stage and the audience, as well as car ride adventures with their pup, Sandy.

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

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

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 form (available in the Narthex) and return it to the church office by December 13th. Names will be included in the Sunday, December 19th bulletin.

Pastor's Holiday Drop-in/Drive-Thru

Saturday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Grammer and her family invite you to drop-in/drive-thru and share some holiday fellowship. Saturday, December 11th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1233 Mulberry Road, Martinsville, Va.

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

Pledges to date for 2022-30 pledges/\$116,742.00

Worship Care Schedule

Sunday, December 5th- Roslyn Wingett

Sunday, December 12th-Nancy Thomas

Deacons of the Month: Sylvia Knight and Linda Moore

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

Opportunities for the Week

Sunday, December 5

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
1:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting-Zoom

Monday, December 6

10:00 a.m. Children's Chapel-Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Missions Committee-Zoom

Wednesday, December 8

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary

Thursday, December 9

10:00 a.m. Bible Study-Zoom
4:00 p.m. ReShape Coordination Team Meeting-In-Person/Zoom

Saturday, December 11

3:00p.m. Pastor's Holiday Drop-In/Drive-Thru

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 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. 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.

Grace Network Oct.-Dec. 2021 Food Assignment

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

Richard's Dinner, Saturday, December 25th

Annual Home-Cooked Christmas Dinner at the FBC Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to help serve meals, can call Norman directly at 276-732-3422, and donations can be made to Grace Network, 16 Liberty Street, Martinsville, Va., 24112. If you know someone who needs a meal, call 276-403-9557.

Gratitude for Giving...

GENERAL FUND: Gifts have been given in memory of Jean Gray by Freddie & Ann Mulchi and Margaret Beliozky. A gift has been given in memory of Margaret Lester by Mary Lewis & Dean Johnston. BEREAVEMENT FUND: A gift has been given in memory of June Pace by Dottie & David Lewis.

*Hymn 132 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way! Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

*Hymn 136 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* PUER NOBIS

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh: awake and listen for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the way for God within, and so prepare to be the home where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the fallen sinner stand; shine out, and let your light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

To you, O Christ, all praises be, whose advent sets your people free; whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore!

*Song of Response

Hymn 165 *I Wonder as I Wander* I WONDER AS I WANDER

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all, but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

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!

Each week during Advent, we will add a verse.