

A Service of Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight and Holy Communion

December 24, 2022

4:00 p.m.

Prelude *The First Noel* arr. Anna Laura Page
Baxter Jennings, organ, John Fulcher, piano

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: We waited.

People: And imagined a savior.

Leader: We imagined power.

People: One like the world but stronger and on our side.

Leader: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

People: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

Leader: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

People: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

Leader: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

People: Praise to the wisdom of love.

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 152 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 Rev. David Cameron
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.**

*Please stand as you are able

Children's Worship Pastor Libby

Away in a Manger

Children are invited to come forward for a time of story and song.

Afterward children will return to their pews to enjoy the remainder of the service with their families.

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

Meditation *The Case of the Missing Donkeys* Dr. Grammer

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

The Prayer of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Solo *Hope Has Come* Palmer/Helmkay
David Cameron, tenor

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

Sharing the Light*

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

*Benediction Dr. Grammer

Postlude *Merry Christmas!* Paul Fey
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.

*Carol 152 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth.

Refrain

*Carol 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 all the 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 Immanuel.

An Advent Candle Lighting Song
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021

W Żłobie Leży

Christ

Candles glowing, promise showing
Jesus born a baby small.

Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing –
praising Christ the Lord of all.

God is with us, shout hosanna,
raise a chorus, singing ever:

Praising Christ the Lord of all!

Praising Christ the Lord of all!

Merry Christmas!

*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. David Cameron, Associate Pastor for Music & Worship

Baxter Jennings, Organist

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: Gary Darden 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 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.

Give in-person or fbcmartinsville.com/give & designate

"Heifer International." *The deadline for our campaign is December 30th.* We partner with Heifer International to create lasting change in people's lives globally and to fulfill Jesus's call to care for the most marginalized. *"For I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." Matthew 25:35*

Serve at Richard's Dinner, December 25th

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., FBC Fellowship Hall.

Volunteer to deliver or help serve meals to our neighbors.

Each year, our church hosts the annual Richard's Dinner on Christmas Day for all who need a meal at Christmas. This dinner, in cooperation with Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County, serves hundreds of meals each year so no one will ever be alone for a Christmas dinner!

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

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Rev. David Cameron
Associate Pastor for
Music & Worship

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Organist

www.fbcmartinsville.com
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"Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope"

First Baptist Church



christmas eve