

# A Service of Worship & Communion

## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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 *Oh Come, Emmanuel* arr. Held  
Baxter Jennings, organ

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Leader: The mighty one has done great things for us.

**People: Holy is God's name!**

Leader: Let us worship our God.

**People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer,  
From generation to generation, our Lord  
gives great mercy.**

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 150 *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEEVES

### Hearing the Scriptures

Reader's Theatre Luke 1:26-56  
David Cameron, William Underwood, Roslyn Wingett, & Taylor Vecchia

Lighting of the Advent Candle Dottie & David Lewis

*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

### 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!

Children's Worship Pastor Caroline

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

### Committing Our Lives

\*Hymn 163 *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

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.**

### Engaging the Scriptures

Anthem *All Is Well* Smith/Larson

Sermon *Following the Star: Mary's Song* Dr. Grammer

### Celebrating Communion

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) Dr. Grammer

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be,  
Advent God. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore  
or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals,  
we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having  
more and more, we risk being sent away empty.  
Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for the life and the song of your servant Mary,  
reminding us of the hope of your coming Son's Kingdom  
and all it means for our lives today.**

### With Lived Hope

\*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 *Variations on "Deck the Halls"* Gilpin

***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.***

**Advent Candle Spotlight-Dr. David & Mrs. Dottie Lewis**

Dorothy Goodman Lewis started life at FBC in the Cradle Roll with  
certificate issued by Natalie Lester in 1936. She has been a member  
for all of her life, grew up in choir, Sunday School, GAs, YWAs.  
Since she returned for good to Martinsville in 1971, she has been in  
choir, taught SS for over thirty years, and devoted more than fifty  
years to Sue Martin McCabe Library, first working with  
Lola T. Kesler as librarian, and now as the librarian.

David joined FBC in 1971 after 10 years as a navy surgeon and  
practiced surgery in Martinsville for 30 years. He has been active in  
the music ministry, including serving as FBC's music director. He  
has served on many different committees, taught Sunday School  
and is a Life Deacon. He is currently the chairman of the Missions  
Committee.

**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.

**Giving in Worship at First Baptist** – We welcome your gifts to  
support the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church. You can  
give in worship by dropping your offering (check/cash) in our  
offering plate in the Narthex, or you can give online anytime at  
[fbcmartinsville.com/give](http://fbcmartinsville.com/give).

## Prayer Reminder

**Church Family:** Alice Bowman, John Buck, John Burgess, Mary Clifton, Martha Crawley, Martha Drane, Nita Gauldin, Ann Grogan, Armand Harrell, George Lester, Betsy Miers, Betty Minter, Betty Prillaman, Shirley Roark, Benny Shires, Shirley Stone, Yvonne Turner, Gayle Williams

**December Birthdays:** 4 Jeanette Stone, 6 Jean Rood, 11 Danny Baptist, 13 Ebb Williams, 26 James Stokes, 29 Chrissy Kinzer, 31 Jim Frith

### Deacons of the Month: Tom Hall and Bob Moore

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

### Worship Care Schedule

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ruth Anne Collins

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Marcia Collins

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Christmas Covered Dish Lunch and Christmas Pageant

**TODAY at 12:30 p.m. CHBC Fellowship Hall**

Join us at our sister church, Chatham Heights Baptist in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and the Christmas story told by our children (FBC Kids & CHBC Kids) afterwards. May we begin this Advent season remembering the truth of Christmas told by our children at First Baptist Church and Chatham Heights Baptist Church.

### “Following the Star: Welcome Holy Child”

#### FBC Early Learning Center Christmas Pageant

**THIS Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.- FBC Sanctuary**

This year's ELC pageant will tell the story of the birth of Jesus, along with festive Christmas songs sung by our Pre-K children.

### Pastor's Holiday Drop-In

**THIS Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Dr. Grammer and her family invite you to drop-in and share some holiday fellowship. Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1233 Mulberry Road, Martinsville, Va.

### Christmas Cantata- “Were you There on That Christmas Night?”

**NEXT Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Join us as the Sanctuary Choir presents “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” by Lloyd Larson. The cantata tells the story with beautiful arrangements and meaningful scriptures.

### The McCabe Library Bake Sale

**NEXT Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in participating by donating your favorite baked dessert, sweet or savory snack, or a craft item please bring your item either Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> or on Sunday morning.

### Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas poinsettias in the Sanctuary, please fill out the form located in the Narthex and return it to the church office by December 18th.

## 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 Grammer  
Senior Pastor

Rev. David Cameron  
Associate Pastor for  
Music & Worship

Caroline Tucker  
Associate Pastor  
for Families

Baxter Jennings  
Organist

[www.fbcmartinsville.com](http://www.fbcmartinsville.com)  
[facebook.com/FirstBaptistMartinsville/](https://facebook.com/FirstBaptistMartinsville/)

*“Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope”*



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MARTINSVILLE, VA

*Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope*

*Following the Star...*

*Season of Advent*

\*Hymn 150

*What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

haste, haste to bring him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,

the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,

come, peasant, king to own him. The King of kings salvation brings;

let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise, the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

\*Hymn 163

*Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

Lo! how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,

of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.

It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,

when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;

with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,

when half spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us

and lightens every load.

## Opportunities for the Week

### Sunday, December 3

8:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting-Fellowship Hall

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-Sanctuary/Online

12:30 p.m. Combined Christmas Lunch-CHBC Fellowship Hall

1:30 p.m. FBC/CHBC Children's Pageant-CHBC Fellowship Hall

### Monday, December 4

6:00 p.m. Still Water Group Rehearsal-Choir Room

7:00 p.m. Smith River Singers Rehearsal-Sanctuary

### Tuesday, December 5

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

4:15 p.m. Personnel Committee-Rm 105

### Wednesday, December 6

12:00 p.m. "Equally Called"- Facebook Live on CHBC page

2:00 p.m. Communion at King's Grant-Chapel

7:00 p.m. ELC Christmas Pageant-FBC Sanctuary

### Thursday, December 7

10:00 a.m. Bible Study-Deuteronomy-Rm 105/Zoom

12:15 p.m. Children & Youth Committee-Rm 105

5:30 p.m. Kids Church-Rm 101

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

### Saturday, December 9

3:00 p.m. Pastor's Christmas Drop-In

## MISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Churchwide Christmas Missions Offering: Heifer International**  
WMU & The Missions Committee are sponsoring a churchwide mission project during December. **Last year we raised enough for Heifer International to enable us to give the gift of six Water for Life systems; send three Girls to School; purchase three honeybee hives; and purchase three flocks of chicks.** We hope to do the same this year!

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 31<sup>st</sup>.*

**Grace Network Oct.- Dec. 2023 Food Assignment: Canned Fruit**  
Please drop the food off in the Missions Room at the church.

### **The Warming Center of Martinsville & Henry Co.**

The Center is now located at the Salvation Army, 603 Memorial Blvd. S, Martinsville, VA. To learn more about how you can volunteer, see your e-newsletter or the church bulletin board for a list of donations needed.

## MISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT'D.

### **Patrick Henry Elementary Food Pantry**

The Missions Committee invites the church to serve children in our community through food donation. Patrick Henry Elementary school is providing food bags for students who need extra food over the weekends. A list of items can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please place any of the needed items in the box marked "PHE" in Room 103, the Missions Room.

### **Richard's Dinner-December 25<sup>th</sup> in FBC Fellowship Hall 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 Christmas dinner!