

# A Service of Worship

Baptism of the Lord

January 14, 2024 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.

## Gathering for Worship

Prelude In Thee is Gladness arr. Graham  
Baxter Jennings, organ; John Fulcher, piano

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

People: We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

Leader: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,

People: We need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

Leader: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

People: Let us worship with our whole selves, knowing we are created, beloved, and made holy.

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 77 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
LOBE DEN HERREN

\*Please stand as you are able

## Hearing the Scriptures

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Marsha Frith  
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

\*Gospel Lesson Mark 1:4-11  
The Gospel of our Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ.

Children’s Worship Pastor Libby  
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 458 Search Me, O God ELLERS

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 When Angels’ Song Is Silent Carter/Bell

Sermon Epiphany about God: God is Close Dr. Grammer

## Remembering Our Baptism

Service of Water

Minister: Dear friends, on this day of re-creation, we recall Christ’s baptism, and we claim and remember our own.

Congregation: We gather at this font of living water to celebrate the gift of God’s redeeming grace.

Minister: For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Congregation: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, male or female— and were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Minister: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

## Affirmation of Faith

Minister: Do you reaffirm and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ and his Kingdom? If so, say, “I do.”

Congregation: I do.

Minister: Do you believe in God?

Congregation: I believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

Minister: Do you trust in the Spirit of God as Guide?

Congregation: I trust that God’s Spirit blows where it will, inspiring many.

Minister: Will you continue in the disciples’ teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

Congregation: I will, with God’s help.

Minister: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

Congregation: I will, with God’s help.

Minister: May it be so.

Congregation: In this and all we do, keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

## Blessing of Water

Prayer of Blessing Dr. Grammer

Minister: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water, that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ, and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

Congregation: Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, Amen.

Minister: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

Please come forward at this time, as you are able, sanitize your hands, and dip your finger into the water and touch your forehead or hand, remembering the waters of baptism. The water will also be available as you exit the Sanctuary if you are unable to come forward at this time.

Say a prayer of thanksgiving as you return to your seat.  
Once the congregation has returned to their seats, we will close the service with a hymn and a benediction. We hope you feel the closeness of a God whose Spirit washes over you and know that you too are God's beloved child.

Responding to God

*Song of Response		
Hymn 543	Christ Beside Me (VS. 1,2,4)	BUNESSAN
*Benediction		Dr. Grammer
*Response	Near to the Heart of God	McAfee
Postlude	Finale in G	Froberger

**Today is Baptism of the Lord Sunday in the Christian year.** Epiphany (January 6) celebrates the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. The Season of Epiphany continues this emphasis, calling attention to the words and deeds of Jesus' earthly ministry. Today specially marks the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing the purity and holiness of Christ.

**This year, during the season of Epiphany,** we will seek to know God better through a sermon series called "Epiphanies about God," reading from the Psalms each week. We'll ask questions and seek answers with the psalmists about who God is, how God works, and how we might encounter God in our own lives.

**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).

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 Tamingier  
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"



Baptism of the Lord

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me never to part.

**Thursday, January 18**

10:00 a.m.	Bible Study-Deuteronomy-Rm 105/Zoom
12:15 p.m.	ELC Committee-Rm. 105
5:30 p.m.	Kid's Church-Rm 101
5:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

**FBC Missions Year In Review 2023**  
See what FBC has participated in and donated to for 2023.  
Visit: <https://fbcmartinsville.com/a-year-of-giving-fbc-missions-review-2023/> to see a brochure outlining our projects and donations! A printed version is available in the Narthex.