# A Service of Worship Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 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

Aria Jennings o

Lotti

Baxter Jennings, organ

Welcome Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Caroline Taminger

Leader: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**People:** We are called out of our darkness into light. Leader: Lift up your eyes and see the guiding Star.

People: We followed it here to the child.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who brings

Light to the world.

People: We come to the child, welcoming all who

arrive with us.

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.

\*Hymn 181

Amen.

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

# **Hearing the Scriptures**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6

Roslyn Wingett

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ.

# 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.

\*Please stand as you are able

## **Committing Our Lives**

\*Hymn 186

Wise Men, They Came to Look

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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

The Journey Is Our Home

Pote

Sermon Following the Star: All Are Welcome Dr. Grammer

# **Celebrating Communion**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

by following rules.

Dr. Grammer

God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left your Light.

Instead of following the Star to Bethlehem, we follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious

Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of your love for all the world.
Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,

who commanded us to love one another.

Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the Mystery of your love is revealed.

We ask this in the name of the Light of the World, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God, we give you thanks for leading us here through the Light of your Son.

We give you thanks for including all those we might fail to include, for we too were once without your Light.

Thank you for the magi's witness to your welcome through Christ.

Thank you for calling us from exclusivity to inclusivity in your love. Amen.

# **Responding to God**

\*Song of Response

Hymn 185 We Three Kings of Orient Are Kings of Orient

\*Benediction

Dr. Grammer

\*Response

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

McGee

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing arr. Cherwein

Today is Epiphany Sunday in the Christian year. Epiphany (January 6) celebrates the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. The season after the Epiphany continues this emphasis, calling attention to the words and deeds of Jesus' earthly ministry by which his divine sonship is made manifest. The liturgical color for Epiphany Sunday is white, symbolic of the purity of Christ.

**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*.

# **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

**January Birthdays:** 1 Herb Collins, 10 Ran Isley, 16 Bobby Moore, 18 Karen Doss, 22 Martha Drane, 23 Yvonne Turner, 29 Joretta Draper, Kenny Smith, 30 Richard Dorr

**Worship Care Schedule** 

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Caroline Taminger Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Linda Gale

#### **Opportunities for the Week**

#### Sunday, January 7

8:45 a.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

#### Monday, January 8

10:00 a.m. WMU Meeting-Rm. 105/Zoom
2:00 p.m. Take down Christmas Decorations
4:15 p.m. Personnel Committee-Rm. 105

#### Tuesday, January 9

10:00 a.m. Children Chapel-Sanctuary

#### Wednesday, January 10

10:00 a.m. Library Committee-Library2:00 p.m. History Committee-Rm. 219

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

5:00 p.m. Take down Christmas Trees

#### Thursday, January 11

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

12:15 p.m. ELC Committee-Rm. 105 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

#### **Gratitude for Giving**

GENERAL FUND: A gift has been given in memory of John Abbott by Elizabeth Floyd. A gift has been given in memory of Crystal Austin by James Austin. A gift has been given in memory of Katerine & Winston Nelson by Luther Ensminger. A gift has been given in memory of JoLene White & The McConnells by Lee Anne & Frank Fuller. A gift has been given in honor of Martha Medley by Lee Anne & Frank Fuller

**Grace Network Jan-Mar. 2024 Food Assignment: Sugar (4lb.)** Please drop the food off in the Missions Room at the church.

#### 2024 Wish List from the FBC Flower Committee-Can you donate? New Christmas Trees

The Flower Committee would like to raise money to buy muchneeded new Christmas Trees for the Narthex and Sanctuary. The current trees are in bad shape – the lights no longer work and the branches are broken. We are looking to buy three 9' pre-lit trees. Each tree will cost \$799 for a total of \$2,397.

#### **New Green Paraments**

We would like to upgrade our green paraments to a more modern green color and design. The cost for paraments (Lord's Table and pulpit) is around \$1,500.

### Worship Banners with stands for the Sanctuary

These banners depicting the different liturgical seasons would be 3'x9' and would hang on a stand in the Sanctuary to focus our worship for each season. The stands are \$300 each (need two) and the banners range from \$200-280 each (2 per season, reusable).

If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund for any of these projects, you may do so in memory/honor of a loved one.

# **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: <u>libby@fbcmartinsville.com</u> 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 Taminger
Associate Pastor
for Families

Baxter Jennings Organist

www.fbcmartinsville.com
facebook.com/FirstBaptistMartinsville/

"Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope"



Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope



Epiphany Sunday

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 2024 Pledge Campaign Update

Thank you for submitting your 2024 pledge! So far for 2024 we have received 27 pledges totaling \$158,936. Pledge cards are still avaible in the church office.

**Offering Envelopes for 2024** - pick up in the Bell Tower.

#### 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.

#### **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.

#### **Donations Delivery**

Can you help FBC deliver donations to partner organizations? If interested, please contact the church office.

#### Heifer International Offering-Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1,551.02 for Heifer International during the month of December. Our total of \$1551.02 was 4x matched when our donations were sent on December 29<sup>th</sup>. This enabled us to purchase one Water for Life systems; send two Girls to School; purchase two honeybee hives; and purchase two flocks of chicks and two garden seeds. Your donations will help Heifer International reach their mission "to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities."

#### \*Hymn 181 As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright, so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed, there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore, so, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

# \*Hymn 186 Wise Men, They Came to Look WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Wise men, they came to look for wisdom, finding one wiser than they knew; rich men, they met with one yet richer—King of the kings, they knelt to you: Jesus, our wisdom from above, wealth and redemption, life and love.

Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries, searching for one who knows the world: lost are their names, and strange their journeys, famed is their zeal to find the child: Jesus, in you the lost are clamed, aliens are found, and known, and named.

Magi, they stooped to see your splendor, led by a star to light supreme; promised Messiah, Lord eternal, glory and peace are in your name. Joy of each day, our Song by night, shine on our path your holy light.

Guest of their God, they opened treasures, incense and gold and solemn myrrh; welcoming one too young to question how came these gifts, and what they were.

Gift beyond price of gold or gem, make among us your Bethlehem.

\*Song of Response

DIX

Hymn 185 We Three Kings of Orient Are KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God on high. Refrain

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom, sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain* 

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds thro' the earth and skies. *Refrain*