

# A Service of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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.*

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prelude *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* arr. Hasting  
Baxter Jennings, organ

Welcome Rev. Steve Zimmerman

Call to Worship Rev. Caroline Taminger  
Leader: We are a family who seek to be brought home together by the love of Christ.

**People: Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness.**

Leader: Acknowledging God's gift of love,

**People: We await the birth of the Christ child.**

\*Hymn 171 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

Lighting of the Advent Candle Erica & Marcus James & Family  
*In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, we can now see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord. May the glorious light of God's steadfast love in this season shine brightly in us and through us so that all people may give our God praise and glory as we make our way back home.*

Advent Response 140 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* EMMANUEL

## Hearing the Scriptures

\*Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 Roslyn Wingett  
The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

\*Hymn 152 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Children's Worship Pastor Caroline  
*After children's worship, children age five 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 156 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*  
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Prayer of Commitment & Lord's Prayer Rev. David Cameron  
**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.**

+\*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 *Shepherd Song* Berry/Ijames

Sermon *Impractical Love* Rev. Zimmerman

## Living In Love

\*Song of Response  
Hymn 161 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

\*Benediction Rev. Zimmerman

Postlude *Glory to God* Saint-Saëns

***Today is the Fourth 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-Erica & Marcus James & family**  
We are thankful for the James family helping us celebrate Advent today. Marcus and Erica have been members of First Baptist since May 2022. Both of them have been active since they have joined. Both sing in the Adult Choir. Marcus is the Vice Chair of the Business and Finance Committee while Erica is the Chair of the Early Learning Center Committee. She is also Vice-Chair of the Children's/Youth Committee and teaches Children's Sunday School.

They have two young daughters, Ella and Charlotte. Ella was baptized recently.

**+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).

## Holiday Nursery Schedule

Our nursery is available for children four and under. The nursery is down the hall from the Narthex and to the right.

December 22nd: The nursery will be available after the children's sermon. After the children's message, Pastor Caroline will walk any children ages 4 and under to the nursery with another nursery staff person.

Christmas Eve: We will not have nursery help available; however, we will have a special place for children in the front with toys and places to sit that you and your family are welcome to use.

December 29: Regular Nursery schedule resumes.

**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.

**Our 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 #, #

## Reminders

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

**Upcoming Birthdays:** 26 James Stokes, 29 Chrissy Kinzer, 31 Jim Frith

## Deacons of the Month: Bob Moore

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

## Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your offering envelopes in the Bell Tower.

## Gratitude for Giving

GRACE NETWORK: A gift has been given in memory of Nicholas Haggas by Mary Frances Gibbs. GENERAL FUND: A gift has been given in memory of John & Phyllis Abbott by Anita & David Philpott. FULLER DAVIS FUND: A gift has been given in honor of Dr. & Mrs. Max Wingett by Laura Wingett.

## Opportunities for the Week

### **Sunday, December 22**

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School-Rm 105-107/Zoom

11:00 a.m. Worship-Sanctuary/Online

### **Tuesday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-Sanctuary

ELC Closed for Christmas

### **Wednesday, December 25**

Church Office & ELC Closed for Christmas

## Advent Opportunities

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-4:00 p.m.**

#### **Sanctuary**

This special service is for all the family to enjoy. Join us as we find our way home and welcome the birth of the Christ-child.

### **Richard's Dinner-December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

#### **Fellowship Hall**

Volunteer to deliver or help serve meals to our neighbors!

These meals, in cooperation with Grace Network of Martinsville and Henry County, serve hundreds each year so no one will ever be alone for Christmas dinner!

### **Churchwide Christmas Missions Offering: Heifer International**

The WMU is sponsoring a churchwide mission project during December. **Last year we raised enough for Heifer International to enable us to give the gift of one Water for Life system; send two girls to school; purchase two honeybee hives; purchase two flocks of chicks and two garden seeds.** We hope to do the same this year! 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 Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.*

## Ongoing Opportunities

### **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.

### **Grace Network Oct.-Dec. 2024 Food Assignment:**

#### **Applesauce (24-32 oz)**

Please drop the food off in the Missions Room 103 at the church

## Welcome to First Baptist Church!

We are #yourcitychurch in Martinsville...

**Coming together with 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.

## 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.

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, contact us at [info.fbcmartinsville.com](mailto:info.fbcmartinsville.com), (276) 632-6336, [steve@fbcmartinsville.com](mailto:steve@fbcmartinsville.com) or his cell (336) 214-3958.

*Our doors are always open. Come see and serve what God is doing among us as we worship in Christ's name.*



23 Starling Avenue  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
(276) 632-6336

Rev. Steve Zimmerman  
Interim Pastor

Rev. David Cameron  
Associate Pastor for  
Music & Worship

Rev. Caroline Taminger  
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*



# Season of Advent

\*Hymn 171      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*      MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord.  
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Advent Response 140      *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*      EMMANUEL

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

\*Hymn 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 echo back their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

*Glo----ria in excelsis Deo! Glo----ria 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 new-born King.

*Refrain*

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!  
Mary, Josph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth.

*Refrain*

\*Hymn 156      *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*  
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger:  
Such a Babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of every race who; have found his favor.

Angels sing about his birth; Wise men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him:  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing:  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger:  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

\*Song of Response

Hymn 161      *Once in Royal David's City*      IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.

Jesus is our child-hood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above,  
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

*In Appreciation for the Christmas Flowers & Trees*

**In Memory of**

Jack Lester & Helen Johnston (trees)  
Jesse Roark (trees)  
John Collins (trees)  
John Abbott (trees)  
Marvin Midkiff (trees)  
Jerry Perdue (trees)  
Grace “Boo” Hensley  
Fin & Ellen Gale  
Floyd & Virginia Hudson  
Jerry Perdue  
Gene Medley  
Margaret Lester  
Dot & David Doss  
Jack Lester  
Dot & David Doss  
Jean & Boyd Gray  
Our Parents  
The Lewis Family  
Robert, Emily, Denby, Eric, Alan, Nancy D,  
Drew (Chip), & George Edward  
The Goodman Family  
S.L. (George), Dorothy, E. Linda, & Nancy W.  
Louise & John Fulcher, Sr.  
Danny Winn  
Nita Gauldin  
Mr. & Mrs. H. S. McConnell  
Mrs. G. T. White  
Stacey Steagall  
John D. Epperly  
Jim Wyatt

**In Honor Of**

Shirley Roark (trees)  
FBC Ministers & Staff

**Given by**

Their Family  
Tracie Roark Matthews  
Tom & Martha Crawley  
Tom & Martha Crawley  
Tom & Martha Crawley  
Karen, Jay, & Jon Doss  
Peggy & Family  
Linda & Ross Gale  
Linda & Ross Gale  
Martha Perdue  
Martha Medley & Family  
Her Family  
Jean & Cliff Rood  
Sue Lester & Family  
Family  
Sherri Lewis & Family, Jeff Gray  
Marsha & Ronnie Garren  
Dottie & David Lewis  
  
John Fulcher, Jr.  
  
Chad Coleman  
Frank & Lee Anne Fuller  
Her Family  
Judy Epperly  
  
Nancy Wyatt  
**Given by**  
Tracie Roark Matthews  
Max & Roslyn Wingett