



FOR THE BEGINNING

— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —

Our Worship of God

January 5, 2025

9:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

Welcome

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

†Call to Worship (responsive)

How did you get here?

Left side of the room: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.

Right side of the room: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

Left side of the room: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

Right side of the room: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

I crawled, kissing the earth below me.

Tell me again. How did you get here?

I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

Welcome home.

This is God's house.

There is room for you here.

Let us worship our gracious God.

†Opening Song

Noel

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Call to Confession

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God of new beginnings,
We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.
Sometimes this is holy and humble,
but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.
On those new-beginning days, O God,
give us the courage to follow your star.
Give us the courage to go home by another way.
Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction
for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.
For when you are doing a new thing,
we want to have the courage to follow.
With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness (responsive)

Dear travelers,
No matter the roads you've taken,
the steps you've made,
or the paths you've traveled,
there is nowhere you could go
that would land you outside of God's love.
Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
**Regardless of the path we travel,
of how lost we may get,
or the twists and turns along the way,
we do not walk alone.
We are loved. We are forgiven.
We have every chance to begin again.
Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

†Song of Praise

Breakthrough

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Sharing Our Gifts

Pastor Greg Hunt

Song of Faith

Awestruck

Message*Wisdom of the Wise*

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Song of Preparation

Holy

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Greg Hunt

Words of Institution

Celebration of Communion

Prayer after Communion

†Song of Response

Burning Heart of God

Life of the Church

†Benediction

Pastor Greg Hunt

Worship Notes

Vestments were quilted by Norma Baker and designed by A Sanctified Art. The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.

Noel, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman CCLI Song #7050419

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, January 5

9:15 am Awakening Service in the Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School

11:15 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, January 6

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 7

1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, January 8

6:00 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm Chancel Bells

Thursday, January 9

10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study

Sunday, January 12

9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

9:15 am Awakening Service in the Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School

11:15 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

Announcements

Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, you can fill out a connection card from the pew back, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at fbc-columbia.org/connect



Annual Business Meeting - Sunday, January 19

10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us Sunday, January 19 at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Business Meeting. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and elect our leadership for 2025. Then, we will hear a report from the finance committee and vote on the 2025 budget.

First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study

We will resume our zoom meetings on Thursday, January 9. 10:30-11:30. Marilyn Zumwalt will be leading. Our new books, *Listening to God*, have arrived. They are available in the church office for \$10 each. We have only 10 books ordered - so you are encouraged to get your book as soon as possible so if we need more, we can get them in time to begin with the group on Jan. 9. This group is open to all so please feel free to invite others to join us.



First Baptist Church
columbia, mo

Rev. Dr. Greg Hunt, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation
Jonathan Ray, Music Director-Traditional Worship
Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director
Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist
Noah Hartsfield, Handbell Director
Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant
Brenda Rice, Administrative Assistant for Web, Facilities, and Arts
Mike Ide, Custodian
Nellene Martin, Childcare Director