



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

*We root ourselves
in ritual*

Our Worship of God

December 31, 2023

10:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Brunch Worship ~

Welcome

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Call to Worship (responsive)

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every month we break bread.

Every week we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

These are the rituals of our faith.

Let us worship our Holy God.

†Sung Table Blessing

Be Present at Our Table, Lord

Be present at our table, Lord;

Be here and everywhere adored;

Thy creatures bless, and grant that we

May feast in paradise with Thee.

We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,

For life and health and every good;

By Thine own hand may we be fed;

Give us each day our daily bread.

†Passing the Peace of Christ

As you pass the peace of Christ, we invite you to fill your plates.

~ Brunch ~

Worshipping God by Nourishing our Bodies

Kids – After you are done eating, see if you can find 5 people who have on white or gold (this is the liturgical color of Christmas). Have them sign your bulletin and share their favorite Christmas song and then find Pastor Brittany for a prize!

† Singing Songs of Christmas

Once in Royal David's City

*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.*

*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.*

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

The First Noel

*The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God,
When our world turns upside down
or when the road ahead is unclear,
we return to ritual.
We come to the sanctuary.
We break bread at the table.
We pour water.
We greet one another as family. And we listen to your Word.
Today we pray—meet us in this moment.
Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope.
We are listening.
We are drawing near.
We are seeking you.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Kids – As you listen to the scripture read, color the picture of Jesus and Anna. Can you color it before the scripture is read?

Luke 2:21-38

When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Engaging the Scriptures (7 minutes)

As you listened to the story read:

- Who are you in this story?
- What do you see around you?
- Who is present? What do they look like, and what are they doing?
- How do you feel?
- Now, imagine you are Mary in this story. How do you receive Simeon's prophecy?

Kids – One of Pastors Brittany's favorite practices to be mindful is using a finger labyrinth. Use yours and see how slow you can go to get to the middle. Can you go even slower? Share with your table if it is easy or difficult to go super slow!

†Song of Faith

Breakthrough

*There must be more
Beyond familiar shores
Into waters unexplored
This one desire
Stirring here in me
Deep is calling out to deep*

*Take me from where I've been
Into something new
I'm giving up control*

*I need a breakthrough
All of my dreams and fears
Are crashing into You
You're waking up my hope
You are my breakthrough*

*Your love so wild
Conquers my defenses
Opens the impossible
It's so amazing
How you take the ashes
And turn them into beautiful*

*You're making all things new
You're making all things new
It's what You always do
You are my breakthrough*

Come break through

Prayer for Yearly Examen

Kids – As this prayer is read, draw or sculpt something that you are grateful for that happened this year. Hold it and say “Thank you, God.”

Prayer for the New Year

God of wisdom and truth,
at the conclusion of this year,
we look back and we look forward.

In the year that has passed
we experienced joy
and we experienced sorrow;

we felt blessed

and we felt challenged.

Some things went by much too fast,

and some things lingered for far too long.

Here in this place

we are reminded that you are present through it all.

We are reminded that we are never alone.

We are reminded that nothing can separate us from your love.

So before we enter this new year,

we pause in silence

to reflect on the year that has passed.

We remember the things from this past year that we are most thankful for.

We recall the moments we were the happiest.

We consider the times we felt most alive.

We recognize the times we gave and received the most love.

(silence)

We are grateful, God, **that you were present in those times.**

We also remember the things from this past year

that we are least thankful for.

We recall the moments we were the least happy.

We consider the times we felt life draining from us.

We recognize the times we gave and received the least love.

(silence)

We are grateful, God, **that you were present in those times too.**

Gracious God,

as we look toward the new year,

we also look forward to what is to come.

We are confident that you will be with us still,

when we are thankful and when we are not;
when we are happy and when we are sad;
when we feel alive and when we feel drained;
when we give and receive love and when we do not.

God, the world we live in is messy and challenging,
it is the world of paradox,
a world of pain,
a world of healing,
a world of fear,
a world of hope,
a world of weeping,
a world of laughing,
a world of injustice,
a world of love.

Yet, God, you are with us always.

**So give us grace and give us courage
to live faithfully in this weary world.**

Remind us always of the promise of your kingdom,
emerging around us and through us.
It is for this kingdom that we now pray,
using the words Jesus taught us.

**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 sin, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

†Song of Commitment

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

*It all comes down to this
What you require of me
Love my neighbor as myself
And You above all things*

*Act justly love mercy walk humbly
With You God
In all things in all ways walk humbly
With You God*

*It all comes down to this
To be Your hands and feet
Good news to all the world
The truth will set us free*

*It's beauty for ashes
It's mourning to dancing
It's closer and closer
The Kingdom of heaven*

*Years from now we'll see
The fruit our hands have sown
Faith just like a seed
The only way it grows*

Questions for Conversation (6 minutes)

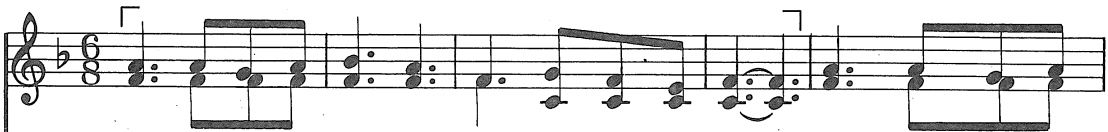
- What rituals are meaningful to you over the years?
- How do our sacred rituals root us?
- What rituals of practices would you like to lean into this coming year?

Kids – Share with your table your favorite tradition (something you do every year or something you do at a special time). Why do you love it? Then see if you can use your playdoh to recreate it!

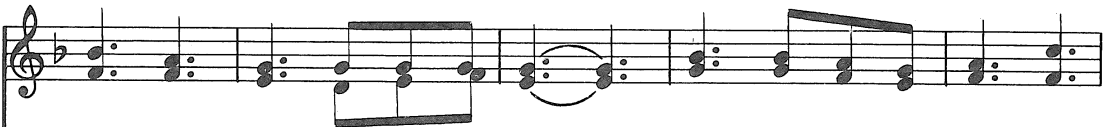
Sharing of our Gifts

†Hymn of Reflection

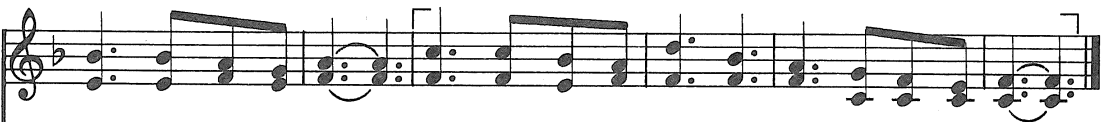
Take Time to Be Holy



1. Take time to be ho - ly, speak oft with thy Lord; a - bide in him
2. Take time to be ho - ly, the world rush - es on; spend much time in
3. Take time to be ho - ly, let him be thy guide, and run not be -
4. Take time to be ho - ly, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each



al - ways, and feed on his Word. Make friends of God's chil - dren;
se - cret with Je - sus a - lone; by look - ing to Je - sus,
fore him what - ev - er be - tide; in joy or in sor - row
mo - tive be - neath his con - trol; thus led by his Spir - it



help those who are weak, for - get - ting in noth - ing his bless - ing to seek.
like him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy con - duct his like - ness shall see.
still fol - low thy Lord, and, look - ing to Je - sus, still trust in his Word.
to foun - tains of love, thou soon shalt be fit - ted for ser - vice a - bove.

Life of the Church

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

**We believe that faith is a journey
marked by rituals and rhythms.
We come to worship.
We confess our sins.
We pass the peace.
We offer grace.
We hear the Word.
We baptize children.
We break the bread.
And we tell the story of a loving God.
And through these sacred rituals,
we are reminded:
we are not alone.
God is near,
and we have work to do.
May this belief
shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.**

Sung Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heav'nly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!*

Post-Worship Cleanup

Worship Notes

Prayer for the New Year, ~ adapted from a prayer by John W. Vest and posted on **John Vest**. <http://johnvest.com/>

Breakthrough, CCLI Song # 7095662 Chris McClarney | Jeff Pardo | Lindsey Sweat

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly, CCLI Song # 7168697 Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Pat Barrett

Take Time to Be Holy, Words: William D. Longstaff, 1882. Music: George C. Stebbins, 1890.

Once in Royal David's City, Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849.

Away in a Manger, Words: Anonymous, 1855. Music: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887.

Call to Worship and Affirmation of Faith by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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Week at a Glance

Monday, January 1-Tuesday, January 2

OFFICES CLOSED for New Year Holiday

Thursday, January 4

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

Sunday, January 7

10:15 am Combined worship in the Fellowship Hall followed by a Churchwide conversation

Announcements

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 at the welcome table, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at fbc-columbia.org/connect



Combined Worship – January 7

You are invited to join us at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, January 7 for Combined Worship. Pastoral Resident, Caleb will be preaching as we conclude our series, “How does a Weary World Rejoice?” Following worship, we will have a church-wide conversation regarding our church’s vision and values. Youth are encouraged to participate and childcare for kids birth-5th grade will be provided. There will also be light refreshments to enjoy while we converse. This is an important step in our pastor search process so plan on attending!

Annual Business Meeting - Sunday, January 21

10:15 am - Fellowship Hall

Join us Sunday, January 21 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 2023. Then, we will hear a report from the finance committee and vote on the 2023 budget.

200th Anniversary Celebration History Book

We are publishing a hard-bound, archival-quality book to preserve and document our history. This book is 869 pages, including 26 color photos and the 2018 and 2023 churchwide photos. The book will be published early in 2024. Personal copies are available for \$75 each. You can order a book using the QR code. A sample copy is on display in the History Room. Please email Ken Hammann if you have questions about the book at krhammann@gmail.com.





First Baptist Church
columbia, mo

Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation

Caleb Cooke, Pastoral Resident

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

Marcy Douglas, Childcare Coordinator

Ella Pritchett, Student Intern