



FOR THE BEGINNING

— DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH —

Our Worship of God

December 29, 2024

10:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Brunch Worship ~

Welcome

†Call to Worship (responsive)

We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

God is in our joy.

God is in this room.

We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.

Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings brought an
 2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a
 3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall re -
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - ery joy our

an - gel bright: How great our joy! Great our joy!
 Child to - day. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 deem us all. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 hearts shall fill. How great our joy! Great our joy!

echo
p

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in
 Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in
 Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in
 Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

f *echo* *p* *f*

heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
 heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
 heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
 heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

echo
p

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Verse 1

1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this;
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save;

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
he has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Joyful God,

You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven,
we must be like children.

**Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?
Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter,
release our cynicism, and
open ourselves to delight?**

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,
this often seems easier said than done.

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments
when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats
instead of jumping for joy.**

We know that even now
you are sowing delight in our lives.

**Open our hearts up to it.
With gratitude we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

†Sung Response

Holy

*The highest of thrones You
Left for a manger
Born as the hope of man
The perfect solution
For our redemption
Fulfilling the Father's plan*

*Holy
Oh my God You're holy
You're the one and only
Worthy of all praise
Glory
I give all the glory
To the one and only
Name above all names*

*Shepherds and angels
Together in worship
Welcome You with a song
And still on the earth we
Join with the heavens
Adoring You Christ the Lord*

*Jesus Christ the chosen one
There's no one like You Lord
Jesus Christ the saving Lamb
Our praise is Yours alone*

†Passing the Joy of Christ

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

~ Brunch ~

Worshiping God by Nourishing Our Bodies

- Lesson One -

Listen for Joy

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

Isaiah 9:2-3

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

†Sing with Joy

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King."*

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Scripture

Kids are invited to the front to help lead this joy activity.

- Lesson Two -

Listen for Joy

Matthew 2:10

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

†Sing with Joy

O Come All Ye Faithful Verses 1 & 3

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

Practice Joy

Joy Found in Community

- At your tables, share the following:
 - What brings you joy?
 - What are practices or rhythms that you would like to bring to the new year to help you lean into joy?
 - How can the First Baptist Community encourage you this coming year?
- **Kids (and kids at heart): use your playdoh or pipe cleaners to create something that brings you joy. This could be something real, or something completely made up and silly!**

- *Lesson Three* -

Listen for Joy

Psalm 126:1-3

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Isaiah 55:12-13

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*You are You are my joy
You are You are my joy*

*Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing
Joy joy joy to the world
Joy joy joy to the world
Joy joy joy to the world
Joy joy joy to the world*

*Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love*

Practice JOY

Joy Found in Prayer & Giving

On the provided paper squares, write three prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing, we encourage you to come forward and hang your written prayers along the twine that is strung throughout the room. We also encourage you to place your tithes and offerings in the plates on the Communion Table. If it is more graceful for you to remain seated, raise your hand and an usher will collect your prayers and offerings.

†Hymn of Response

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.

†Benediction

Joy Through Serving (Post-Worship Clean Up)

Worship Notes

While By the Sheep We Watched, Words & Music: Traditional German carol.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, Words: Macaronic carol, 14th C. Music: Traditional German melody, 14th C.

Holy, Austin Johnson, David Leonard CCLI Song #7208940 © Heritage Worship Music Publishing; Be Essential Songs; Shout It; Storied Journey Songs

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapt. William H. Cummings, 1856.

O Come All Ye Faithful, Words: Latin hymn, attr. John F Wade, 1751; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841. Music: John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751.

Joy!, Davide Mutendji, Isaac Watts, Josh Holiday CCLI Song #7210780 © Elevation Worship Publishing; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Words: Henry Van Dyke. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824.

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 29

10:15 am Brunch Worship in the Fellowship Hall

December 31-January 2

OFFICES CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

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

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.

