



FOR THE BEGINNING

— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —

Our Worship of God

December 8, 2024

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Second Sunday of Advent ~

Welcome

Noah Hartsfield

†Prelude

Breath of Heaven
w/ Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. Anna Laura Page

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

In a world that is lonely,

we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,

we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,

we will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.

We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Light the candles! Sing with joy!

Let's worship our Relational God.

† Opening Hymn 132

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Lighting of the Candle of Peace (responsive)

The Chang Family

In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

Let us begin together.

Let us begin arm in arm.

**Let us begin by holding each other up,
instead of tearing each other down.**

Let us begin with words of peace.

Yes, let us begin with peace.

Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

The Second Candle is lit

May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights mark a new beginning.

**May peace flow like a river,
and may it start with us.**

Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.

May we begin again. Amen.

†Song of Advent

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Introduction of the Pastoral Candidate

Noah Hartsfield

Sharing Our Stories

Rev. Kristin McAtee

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Ruth 1:6-13, 16-18

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me."

But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her,
she said no more to her.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

†Song of Reflection

I'm With You

Scripture Reading

Elizabeth

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sharing Our Gifts

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Anthem

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Margaret R. Tucker

Chancel Choir w/ Chancel Bells

Colleen Ostercamp, *piano*

Vaysia Knust and Carmen Ramirez, *descant*

Casey Brooks, *flute*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Message

Rev. Kristin McAtee

†Hymn 708

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

†Renewal of our Church Covenant (unison)

Beth Marchbanks

**Because we have responded to Christ's call to follow him as disciples
and because we find this calling too difficult and too important
to fulfill alone,**

We covenant together

**to support and to pray for one another without ceasing;
to be candid in our speech, kind in our attitudes,
and caring in all our dealings with one another;
to seek the mind and vision of Christ for ourselves
and our life together,
mindful that our unity does not require uniformity.**

Moreover, we covenant

**to give first priority
to our times of public worship and learning;
to sustain our common mission by proportionate giving,
faithful service and personal witness;
to live our lives in a manner worthy
of the gospel we profess
and of this family of faith;
and to seek others' forgiveness and God's
when we fail to honor this covenant,**

**Trusting God's Spirit to renew us in
stronger faith,
brighter hope
and broader love.**

Life of the Church

†Benediction

†Post-Service Music

Awakening Praise Band

Worship Notes

Vestments were quilted by Norma Baker. Designed by A Sanctified Art. This quilt square design is called a "log cabin", and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.

Candle Litany by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Call to Worship, Call to Worship adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People, Words: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Glory (Let There Be Peace), Chris Stevens, Matt Maher, Rachel Taylor Popadic CCLI Song #7071972 © Meaux Mercy; Moody Producer Music; Be Essential Songs; I Am A Pilgrim Songs; Rachel Taylor Music

I'm With You, Bernie Herms, Nichole Nordeman CCLI Song #6119887 © 2011 Bernie Herms Music; Birdboy Songs; Birdwing Music; Capitol CMG Paragon

Blest Be the Tie That Binds, Words: John Fawcett, 1782, alt. Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845.

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 8 –Pastoral Candidate Visit

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour
- 11:15 am Combined Worship in the Sanctuary, Pastoral Candidate preaching
- 12:30 pm Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Called Business Meeting in the Fellowship Hall (in-person only)

Monday, December 9

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 10

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:00 pm Youth Group
- 6:30 pm Chancel Bells

Thursday, December 12

- 10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study
- 6:00 pm Crafter Hours

Sunday, December 15

- 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
- 5:00 pm Annual Christmas Dinner

Announcements



Welcome Rev. Kristin McAtee

Today we welcome Reverend Kristin McAtee to First Baptist! The Pastor Search Committee has invited Rev. McAtee to come to our church in view of a call as our next Senior Pastor.

This past weekend, Kristin, her husband Brian, and their daughter Danielle had the opportunity to meet many of you.

Join Us for Lunch, Q&A, and a called Business Meeting

Immediately following 11:15 a.m. Combined Worship, you are invited to a luncheon and a business meeting in the Fellowship Hall. No reservation is required to attend the luncheon. After the meal, we will have a meeting where the Pastor Search Committee will present their process, review the Covenant and Agreement, and provide time for a Q&A session. Church members will then vote by paper ballot on the motion to call Rev. McAtee. We hope you will stay for this important decision that will impact the direction of our church.

About Rev. Kristin McAtee

Rev. McAtee is currently an Associate Pastor at Spring Creek Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, where she has served since 2021. Her responsibilities include overseeing missions, administration, youth work, pastoral care, and quarterly preaching and worship planning. Her previous roles include Associate Coordinator for CBF Oklahoma, President of the Board for Global Women, and positions at First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and First Southern Baptist Church in Long Beach, CA. Rev. McAtee holds a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development and Family Studies from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Music, Church Music from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California.

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



Advent Worship Series

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to an end, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown. *Words for the Beginning* offers us scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season rooted in love. Adult Advent Devotionals will be available in both worship spaces and family devotionals will be available in the Kids Ministry area. If you would like a digital copy of the adult devotional, contact Pastor Brittany.



First Baptist Christmas Dinner - Sunday, December 15 at 5pm

We invite you to join us for our Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 15, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The meat and beverages will be provided by the church, and excellent side dishes and desserts prepared by you and your First Baptist friends. To help ensure we have a variety of food, we encourage you to bring a side dish if your last name begins A-M and a dessert if your last name begins with N-Z. Come feast and celebrate with us!

Blue Christmas – December 19 - 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

We know that while the holiday season is full of cheer and expectation, many also hold grief and sadness. As a way to make space for difficult emotions during the holiday season, particularly grief around endings and anxiety around new beginnings, you are invited to a contemplative Blue Christmas service on December 19. Our service will provide space for silence, prayer, and lament.



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