



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

*We acknowledge
our weariness*

Our Worship of God

December 3, 2023

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ First Sunday of Advent ~

Welcome

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. J. Evanovich

†Call to Worship (responsive)

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

†Opening Hymn 133

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

God who created all things, bless these trees as we decorate and make them joyful symbols for our Sanctuary. May the branches remind us of the shelter and shade you provide for us and for many creatures. May their trunks remind us of your strength. May their lights bring us peace. May we remember your gift to us this season, the gift of Jesus, Amen.

†Hanging of the Green

Prayer for Illumination

Caleb Cooke, *Pastoral Resident*

Scripture Reading

Andrea Weingartner

Luke 1:5-23

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

†Hymn 132

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope,
by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

With God’s help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

The first candle is lit.

Anthem

Joy of Longing Hearts

arr. Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Come, thou Savior of the world;
come to us, we pray.
Cast our sin and enter in;
come to us today.*

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne!*

Message

We Acknowledge Our Weariness Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Invitation to the Table

Litany of Communion

The God of grace be here with you.

The God of grace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.

Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.

*Sung: Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,
On earth and in the heav'nly heights adored.*

When Jesus sat at the table with his friends,

He took the bread, and blessing it, he said:

"This is my body, offered for you;

Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth."

*Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living bread,
And seek a day when all shall be fed.*

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup.

He blessed it and he raised it up.

"This cup is life poured out for you.

My promise to make all things as new."

*Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace
With those who thirst for justice and release.*

O Spirit, fire of hope sent from above

Unite us in salvation and love.

Bless these, your gifts of bread and wine

And fill us with your joy divine.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal
And bless our God, who feeds and heals.*

Celebration of Holy Communion

Life of the Church

†Benediction

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.

†Postlude

Light Dawns on a Weary World
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

by W. Rowan

Worship Notes

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Words: Latin Hymn, 12th C; tr. John M. Neale, 1851. Music: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People, Words: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671. Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564.

Litany of Communion, Rev. Melissa Bills

Be Still My Soul, Words: Katharina A. von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1855, alt. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899.

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 3 – Hanging of the Green

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 pm College Ministry, *The Gathering*

Monday, December 4

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, December 6

- 6:30-7:30 pm Chancel Bells
- 5:30 *The Calling* Dinner
- 6:00-7:15 *The Calling*

Thursday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 10

- 9:10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Awakening Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 am Spiritual Formation Hour –Adult, Youth & First Kids Sunday School
- 11:15 am Traditional Worship 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 at the welcome table, scan the QR code in the bulletin, or visit our website at fbc-columbia.org/connect Room and a meal will be provided.



Forward in Faith

Each November, as we begin our budget planning process for our next year of ministry, we ask our faith community to consider partnering with us by pledging their financial support. Our theme for this year's annual pledge drive is Forward in Faith. As we move into our 200th year of ministry, we wanted a theme that reflected the church's commitment to the future. Your pledge ensures that our unique progressive Christian voice will continue. You can pledge at <https://fbc-columbia.org/giving/>



Advent and Christmas Devotional

Our Advent and Christmas theme is *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* Our theme will explore the relationship between joy and sorrow and turn to Luke's gospel to guide the way. Advent devotionals are available outside of both worship spaces.

First Baptist 200th Anniversary Christmas Ornament!

Crafted from locally sourced, natural Missouri red oak or cherry, each ornament is laser-engraved by a talented local artisan. Add a reminder of our church family and anniversary celebration to your Christmas decor for \$7.00. You can purchase an ornament by using this QR code: Ornaments will be ready in the first quarter of 2024!



Help Support the VAC Family Holiday Program

VAC Holiday programming gifts are due today! If you forgot to bring your gift, contact Mark Thomas at thomasme@missouri.edu

Christmas Dinner - December 17 at 5pm

We invite you to join us for our Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared for a lovely meal of turkey, ham, and beverages 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. Young musicians will provide special entertainment and our Chaotic Christmas Pageant is back for another year of fun and laughter. Come feast and celebrate with us!

Blue Christmas Service December 21

6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Although the season of Advent is joyful for so many, we also know that the holiday season can be drenched in fatigue, grief, and loneliness. For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. As a result, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a “Blue Christmas” or a “Longest Night” service during the Advent season. These services are designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle. Honoring our Advent theme, we wanted to provide a special service for the weary. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself space to reflect and draw near to God. *At this time, we are unable to offer childcare. If you would like to volunteer with our children so others who may need this space to grieve can attend, please contact Pastor Brittany.*



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 Osterreich, 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