



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We find joy in
connection*

Our Worship of God

December 10, 2023

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Second Sunday of Advent ~

Pre-service Music

Judy Elliott, *harp*

Welcome

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Jason Krug

Chancel Bells

Noah Hartsfield, *director*

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this moment.

Surely God is in this moment.

God is with you.

God is with you.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

†Opening Hymn 135

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Norma Baker

How does a weary world practice peace?

**By listening before we speak,
and saying sorry when we need to.**

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**By choosing grace over hate
and opening the door for each other.**

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

**With God's help, may we bring peace
into a weary world. Amen.**

The second candle is lit.

†Hymn 531

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Scripture Reading

Tim Wahl

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

Caleb Cooke, *Pastoral Resident*

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.**

**We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.
Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.**

**And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.**

**So together we say:
I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.**

Sharing Our Gifts

Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Chancel Choir and Handbells

Message

We Find Joy in Connection

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

†Hymn of Response

I Can Celebrate You
Sung to CRANHAM (“In the Bleak Midwinter”)

*I can celebrate you, I can hold your joy
When the load is crushing and you've lost your voice
I can celebrate the promise your life holds
When the weariness bears heavy on your soul*

*I can recognize good fruit that you will bear
When your own self-doubt hides gifts you have to share
I can recognize your Christ-light deep within
Every gift that God has sown waiting to begin*

*We can hold each other in our joy and fear
Knowing that the Spirit moves when we are near
We can hold each other, lift each other up
Filling one another from the Spirit's cup*

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

Joy to the World / Little Prelude in C
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

by Limbaugh/Bach

*Following the postlude, we invite you to stay
for a report from the Self-study Committee.*

Worship Notes

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Words: Charles Wesley, 1744; Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830; arr. Rolph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go, Words: George Matheson, 1882. Music: Albert L. Peace, 1884.

I Can Celebrate You, Words: Anna Strickland, 2023. Music: Gustav Holst, 1906.

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

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle, Affirmation of Faith, and Benediction written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

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Week at a Glance

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

Monday, December 11

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, December 13

6:30-7:30 pm Chancel Bells

5:30 *The Calling* Dinner

6:00-7:15 *The Calling*

Thursday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 17

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

5:00 pm Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

Announcements

Self-Study Survey

Following both worship services, the Self-Study Committee is asking you to stay for a brief update and to begin our self-study survey. The Survey can be found at <https://bit.ly/FBCCOMOSurvey> or by scanning the QR code. Paper copies are available upon request. The deadline to complete the survey is December 24. The Self-Study Committee will share a summary of this survey at two Table Talk sessions, with a third meeting to elect the pastoral search committee. All three Sundays will be structured with combined worship at 10:15 am. Both Table Talks will take place in the Fellowship Hall with pastries, fruit, coffee, and juice provided by the church. Youth are encouraged to participate, and childcare will be provided.

- **January 7, 2024** - Immediately following combined worship, the self-study team will present a summary of the Values and Vision sections of the survey and conversation will center around our Values and Vision.
- **February 4, 2024** - Immediately following worship, the self-study team will present a summary of the Pastor Skills, Characteristics, and Tasks sections of the survey and conversations will focus on the skills and responsibilities of our next Senior Pastor.
- **March 3, 2024** - Immediately following combined worship, the congregation will elect the Senior Pastor Search Committee. Our bylaws provide guidance, and more details will be provided in the weeks to come.



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.



Forward in Faith

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. Our physical copies have been claimed, but if you would like a digital copy email Pastor Brittany (bnull@fbc-columbia.org).

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!



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.*

Sundays of Christmastide

See below for the worship schedule beginning on December 24:

- December 24 at 11:15 am – Combined worship in the Sanctuary celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 at 11:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 31 at 10:15 am – Brunch worship in the Fellowship Hall
- January 7 at 10:15 am – Combined worship in the Fellowship Hall with Pastoral Resident Caleb Cooke preaching, followed by a church-wide conversation.



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