



forward in

F A I T H

# Our Worship of God

November 24, 2024

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

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Welcome

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Prelude

**O God, Thou Faithful God**  
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

S. Karg-Elert

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Come and worship!

**We will praise the One between, within, and over.**

Trust in the One who co-creates the was, the now, and the will-be.

**Our hope is in the One who creates expansive love  
calling us to do the same.**

Follow the One who never breaks covenant.

**We follow the One whose extravagant love calls us to  
co-create justice for the oppressed,  
feed the hungry, unlock prisons,  
and welcome strangers, orphans, and widows.**

Praise the One whose justice is grace-full and inclusive.

**We praise the Spirit that spans the ages. Amen!**

† Opening Hymn 558

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Ministry Moment: Music Ministry

Vaysia Knust

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

Pastor Greg Hunt

Let us give thanks for the remarkable gifts  
of God's creating and redeeming love,  
which casts out all fear.

For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore,  
to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities,  
to ponder theories and then cross-examine them.

**We thank you, God of adventurous love.**

For the love that enables us to marvel at our own existence,  
to ponder and remember,  
recognize our own needs  
and affirm our own knowledge and purpose.

**We thank you, God of determined love.**

For the love that helps us to communicate with one another,  
to express trust and respect,  
share heartaches and visions,  
to convey love and mercy.

**We thank you, God of reconciling love.**

For the love that inspires us to warmly encourage those around us,  
to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten.

**We thank you, God of nurturing love.**

For the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us,  
to delight in shapes and colors,  
intricacies and patterns,  
awesome forces and deep mysteries.

And inspires us to co-create a more inclusive world with you.

**We thank you God of visionary love.**

For the love that encourages us to express something of our faith;  
for songs and prayers, hymns and readings,  
discussion groups and sermons.

**We thank you, God of creative love.**

Above all else we thank you  
for the love that allows us to admit  
that we have no words in which to adequately describe  
the process of faith in Jesus,  
the awesome worship of our God,  
and the holy wonder of the Spirit.

**We thank you, God of abundant love. Amen!**

†Hymn 374

Now Thank We All Our God

### Scripture Reading

#### **Ephesians 4:7-9; 11-16**

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

Pastor Greg Hunt

**Anthem**

**Love Never Fails**

by J.A.C. Redford

*Chancel Choir, Colleen Ostercamp, piano*

*Christina Ray, soloist*

*Cheyenne Blair, cello*

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love,*

*I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge,  
And if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

*If I can give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,  
but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient, love is kind, love leaves envy far behind.*

*Never boastful, proud or rude, love rejoices with the truth.*

*Slow to anger, stores no wrongs, love will never seek its own.*

*Love does not delight in sin, it bears all things, believes all things, love hopes all  
things, endures all things.*

*Love never fails.*

*Prophecies someday will cease, as for tongues they will be stilled.*

*Knowledge, it will pass away, yet love remains, it helps all things, believes all things,  
endures all things.*

*Love never fails.*

**Message**

*We are Co-Creators with God*

Pastor Greg Hunt

**†Hymn of Response 51**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

**Time for Commitment**

Pastor Greg Hunt

**Life of the Church**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

**†Benediction**

**†Postlude**

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

arr. Gordon Young

Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

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# Worship Notes

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*Call to Worship*, written by Tim Graves, and posted on LiturgyBits.  
<https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, Words: Charles Wesley. Music: John Zundel.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*, adapted from a prayer by Bruce Prewer and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

*Now Thank We All Our God*, Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858. Music: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

*God You Spin the Whirling Planets*, ©1987 Jane Parker Huber

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## Week at a Glance

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### Sunday, November 24

- 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
- 10:15 am Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall
- 11:15 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

### Monday, November 25

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, November 26

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

### Thursday, November 28- Friday, November 29

OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

### Sunday, December 1 – Hanging of the Green

- 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

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# Announcements

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## 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](http://fbc-columbia.org/connect)



## Current Worship Series: **Forward in Faith**

As we look to 2025, we anticipate the arrival of a new senior pastor and the ongoing growth of our missional ministries. This adds fresh fuel to our historic commitments of faith and purpose. It also colors our budget planning process, reinforcing a commitment we made at this time last year to move Forward in Faith.

During the month of November, we ask you who consider FBC your spiritual home to commit to giving and participation in 2025 as partners in God's work through our church. Doing so will be a tangible way to show your gratitude and hope related to our congregation's distinctive way of living out our calling in Christ. If you would like to fill out a card out online, use the QR code.





## Advent Worship Series – Beginning December 1

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.

## Quilts For Display During Advent

Our Advent theme was inspired by the storied tradition of quilting. The visual concept of quilting inspired us because this series feels like a blanket wrapped around you, providing warmth and comfort as you begin again. Like a quilt formed by scraps of old fabrics and meaningful family items, this worship series stitches together the ancient scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again. Do you have a family quilt or one that has special meaning to you? Would you be willing to share it with the church? We want to display your quilts in our building to lean into the feeling of warmth and protection they offer. If you would be interested in allowing one of your quilts to be displayed and could provide a brief paragraph about your quilt, please email Brenda Rice: [brice@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:brice@fbc-columbia.org)

## Voluntary Action Center - Holiday Giving Program

First Baptist will sponsor two families as part of Voluntary Action Center's (VAC) 2024 Holiday Giving Program, bringing Christmas cheer to two of our adult neighbors and eight children and youth. Cards with requested/suggested gifts are available on the Bulletin Board in the central hallway between worship spaces. Please take the color top card and leave its black and white match on the Board. You will not need to wrap your gifts, but please attach your card to the gift, and bring them to Church by **Sunday, December 8**. VAC's annual Holiday Program is a community enriching effort that brings joy and support to over 1,000 families in Boone County each year. Thank you for your generosity!

## Crafter Hours – Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Crafter Hours is open in the evenings to people of all ages and crafting abilities. Bring your own craft and join in us in the College Room from 6:00-8:00 pm! For more information, contact Pastor Brittany at [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org)

## Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Pastor Search Committee is excited to announce that we have identified a candidate to present to the congregation for the position of Senior Pastor.

The pastoral call visit is scheduled for the weekend of Sunday, December 8, 2024. On that Sunday, we will gather for a combined worship service at 11:15 AM, followed by a special called business meeting and luncheon. During the weekend, the candidate will meet with various ministry teams and committees. On Saturday evening, December 7, the Pastor Search Committee will host a reception and dinner for the entire congregation from 4:00–7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This special event will include a receiving line, allowing each person to meet the candidate and the candidate's family. Following dinner, the candidate will share her spiritual journey and respond to questions during a Q&A session.

To honor the confidentiality of the candidate, we will not disclose the name at this time. On Sunday, December 1, the Pastor Search Committee will formally introduce the candidate by name, provide a resume, and share additional details in a letter to the congregation and through The Spire. We kindly ask that communication regarding the candidate remain within our church family to maintain confidentiality.

The Pastor Search Committee wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to the congregation for their prayers, support, and patience throughout the process. We firmly believe that the Holy Spirit has been at work, guiding and leading our church, staff, committee, and this candidate to this moment. May we continue to seek God's will together as we move forward in faith.

Please join us for us at the events below to meet and hear from the candidate:

**Saturday, December 7:**

- 4-7:00 pm: Congregation Candidate Introduction & Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 pm: Receiving Line with Candidate
- 5:00 pm Dinner
- 6:00 pm: Moderated Q&A with Candidate

The search committee co-chairs will interview the candidate utilizing a combination of questions selected by the search committee as well as questions submitted by the congregation. Congregation members will have an opportunity to submit questions ahead of time or that night at the event.

**Sunday, December 8:**

- 11:15 pm: Combined Worship - Sanctuary  
The candidate will preach and lead in worship.
- 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm: Lunch & Called Business Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm: Presentation by the Search Committee followed by a church vote.

**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!



**First Baptist Church**  
columbia, mo

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*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*