



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— DO THE GOOD THAT —
IS YOURS TO DO

Our Worship of God

December 15, 2024

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Third Sunday of Advent ~

Pre-Service Music

Judy Elliott & Maria Trevor, *harps*

Welcome

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Prelude

Silent Night

arr. Jackson Witman

Judy Elliott, Maria Trevor, *harps*
Noah Hartsfield, *bells*

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Pastor Greg Hunt

“Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

Let us worship our present and active God.

† Opening Music 135

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

† Passing the Joy of Christ

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle (responsive)

FBC Scholarship Singers

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

Let us start small.

Let us begin with what is right in front of us.

**Let us do the good that is ours to do,
and let us do it with joy!**

Yes, let us begin with joy.
Today we light the candle of joy.

The third candle is lit

May these lights remind us
of what could be.

May these lights inspire action.

**May the warmth of these lights
fill us with joy.**

May it be so! Amen.

†Hymn 136

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Luke 3:7-16

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor Greg Hunt

John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?"
Church, what is your answer?

**In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:
Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.
Instead, hold fast to hope.
Roll up your sleeves.
Feed the hungry.
Tend the garden.
If you have two coats, give one away.
Do the good that is yours to do.
In doing so, you will see God.
For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.
Amen.**

Sharing Our Gifts

Pastor Greg Hunt

Anthem

Dona nobis pacem (Give Us Peace)
arr. Margaret R. Tucker
Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells

Message

Do the Good That is Yours to Do

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Music of Response

Show Us How to Stand for Justice
(Sung to Ode to Joy)

*Show us how to stand for justice: how to work for what is right,
How to challenge false assumptions, how to walk within the light.
May we learn to share more freely in a world so full of greed,
Showing Your immense compassion by the life we choose to lead.*

*Teach our hearts to treasure mercy, whether given or received—
For our need has not diminished since the day we first believed:
Let us seek no satisfaction boasting of what we have done,
But rejoice that we are pardoned and accepted in Your Son.*

*Gladly we embrace a lifestyle modeled on Your living Word,
In humility submitting to the truth that we have heard.
Make us conscious of Your presence every day, in all we do:
By Your Spirit's gracious prompting may we learn to walk with You.*

Life of the Church

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

†Benediction

†Postlude

O Come All Ye Faithful
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. Behnke

Worship Notes

Vestments were quilted by Norma Baker and designed by A Sanctified Art. We are each uniquely gifted, called, and equipped for the good that is ours to do in the world. In the center is the cross, symbolizing Christ's impact, and surrounding it are individuals reaching out and shining their particular light in the world.

Call to Worship, Affirmation of Faith, Call to Worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, Words: Charles Coffin, 1736; tr. John Chandler, 1837. Music: Trier manuscript, 15th C.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

Show Us How to Stand for Justice, Words: Martin Leckebusch, 2000. Today, sung to "Ode to Joy"

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Week at a Glance

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

Monday, December 16

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

- 10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study
- 6:00 pm Blue Christmas in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 22

- 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

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



Announcement from the Senior Pastor Search Committee

The Senior Pastor Search Committee is pleased to announce that, following her visit with First Baptist over the weekend of December 6-8, Rev. Kristin McAtee has been called to be our next Senior Pastor! An overwhelming majority of the church voted in favor of calling Pastor Kristin and she enthusiastically accepted!

The search committee was thrilled to be able to present Pastor Kristin to the congregation. The committee feels that Pastor Kristin is the right pastor to come alongside First Baptist Church and our kin-dom building work. During her sermon on Sunday, Pastor Kristin spoke about her life as a braid being constantly woven with two consistent strands, herself and God, always present; and now with the strand that is First Baptist added to the braid. This is a great metaphor for who the committee found Pastor Kristin to be, someone who seeks to build strong relationships, forge community, and work together for the common good.

Pastor Kristin's first day in the office will be January 21, 2025 and her first Sunday in the pulpit will be January 26. Pastor Greg will begin to transition out of his role as interim senior pastor. His last Sunday will be January 12. Please join us in thanking Greg and Priscilla for all that they have done for us during this interim period. We will have a guest preacher in the pulpit on January 19.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during this search process. More details will follow in the coming weeks with information about Pastor Kristin's transition and opportunities to get to know her and her family further. We are excited to welcome Pastor Kristin, her husband Brian, and daughter Danielle to the FBC Family!

First Baptist Christmas Dinner – Today, December 15 at 5pm

We invite you to join us for our Annual Christmas Dinner this evening 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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

With joy, we will celebrate the coming of Christ with carols, a retelling of the Christmas story, and the tradition of sharing the light with candles as we sing “Silent Night.” Bring family and friends and join us as we worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 pm. Come early and support our young musicians as they play pre-service music starting at 10:30 pm.

Brunch Worship - Sunday, December 29

10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for Brunch Worship on Sunday, December 29, at 10:15 am. Brunch Worship is an opportunity to connect with God and one another as we gather around tables to share engaging worship, a scrumptious meal, and meaningful conversation! Brunch Worship is a communal endeavor, and you can contribute by bringing a potluck dish to share and by signing up to serve when you arrive. A few reminders, there will be no 9:15 or 11:15 am services. Childcare will be available for children from birth through kindergarten.



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