



FOR THE BEGINNING

— HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK —

Our Worship of God

December 22, 2024

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~

Pre-Service Music

Canon in D

Pachelbel

Camille, *piano*

Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

Welcome

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Nielson & Young

Becki Forsee, *piano*

Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

†Call to Worship (responsive)

Pastor Greg Hunt

In this weary world,

we sing of joy.

In this fragile world,

we lift each other up.

In this beautiful world,

we look for God.

In this tender world,

we hold onto hope.

This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

With hope and love in our hearts, we worship our God!

† Opening Hymn 173

O Come, All Ye Faithful

†Passing the Love of Christ

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle (responsive)

Greg Horstmeier &
Dolores Shearon

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

Let us begin with tenderness.

Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.

**Let us begin from a place of vulnerability
and hope.**

Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love.
Today we light the candle of love.

The fourth candle is lit

May the warmth of these lights be
our cornerstone.

**May the truth in these lights
help us begin again.**

May it be so!
Amen.

†Hymn 179

God's Love Made Visible

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

**We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope,
a God who fills our nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring,
who dwells with and among us.
We believe that this God has dreams for creation,
dreams of justice like a mighty stream
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.
Therefore, we push cynicism aside.
We risk vulnerability.
We hold onto hope,
and we declare:
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”**

Sharing Our Gifts

Anthem

An Advent Credo

by Joseph M. Martin

Chancel Choir w/ Colleen Ostercamp

*I believe in joy. I believe in the promise of morning.
I believe that Christ will come and wipe our tears away.
I believe in hope. I believe in the life everlasting.
I believe that Christ will come and bring a bright new day.
Lord, in my heart, I believe.*

*When the darkness falls around me, in the still of the night,
When shadows all surround me, faith will lead me to the morning light!*

*I believe in peace. I believe in a song of tomorrow.
I believe that Christ will come, and war shall be no more.
I believe in love. I believe in God's great love.
I believe in the grace that unites us.
I believe that Christ will come in glory from above.*

Message

Hope is Worth the Risk

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Hymn of Response 146

Joy to the World

Life of the Church

Pastor Greg Hunt

†Benediction

†Postlude

The Snow Lay on the Ground

arr. McConnell

Becki Forsee, *piano*
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

Worship Notes

Vestments were quilted by Norma Baker and designed by A Sanctified Art. This traditional quilt square design is called “birds in the air.” Sometimes when we take a risk, hope takes flight. At times it may feel like you’re falling, but you’ll find that, in God’s embrace, you are flying.

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Words: Latin hymn. Music: John F. Wade’s *Cantus Diversi*, 1751.

God’s Love Made Visible, Words: Iola Brubeck. Music: Dave Brubeck, 1975.

The First Noel, Words: Traditional English Carol. Music: W. Sandys’ Christmas Carols, 1833.

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

Joy to the World, Words: Isaac Watts, 1719; para. of Psalm 98. Music: Lowell Mason, 1848; based on G. F. Handel, 1742.

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Week at a Glance

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

Monday, December 23

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 24

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

December 24-26

OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Sunday, December 29

10:15 am Brunch Worship in the Fellowship Hall

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



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.

Annual Business Meeting - Sunday, January 19

10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us Sunday, January 19 at 10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Business Meeting. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and elect our leadership for 2025. Then, we will hear a report from the finance committee and vote on the 2025 budget.

First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study

We will resume our zoom meetings on Thursday, January 9. 10:30-11:30. Marilyn Zumwalt will be leading. Our new books, *Listening to God*, have arrived. They are available in the church office for \$10 each. We have only 10 books ordered - so you are encouraged to get your book as soon as possible so if we need more, we can get them in time to begin with the group on Jan. 9. This group is open to all so please feel free to invite others to join us.



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