



**FOR THE BEGINNING**

— THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT —

# *Our Worship of God*

*January 5, 2025*

*11:15 am*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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**Welcome**

Pastor Greg Hunt

**†Prelude**

Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

**†Call to Worship (responsive)**

Pastor Greg Hunt

How did you get here?

**I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.**

I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

**I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**

I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

**I crawled, kissing the earth below me.**

Tell me again. How did you get here?

**I am here by God's grace and love's pull.**

Welcome home.

This is God's house.

There is room for you here.

**Let us worship our gracious God.**

**†Opening Hymn 174**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

**†Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Call to Confession**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**God of new beginnings,  
We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,  
simply because others have been there before.  
Sometimes this is holy and humble,  
but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.  
On those new-beginning days, O God,  
give us the courage to follow your star.  
Give us the courage to go home by another way.  
Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction  
for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.  
For when you are doing a new thing,  
we want to have the courage to follow.  
With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.  
Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness (responsive)

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Dear travelers,  
No matter the roads you've taken,  
the steps you've made,  
or the paths you've traveled,  
there is nowhere you could go  
that would land you outside of God's love.  
Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:  
**Regardless of the path we travel,  
of how lost we may get,  
or the twists and turns along the way,  
we do not walk alone.  
We are loved.  
We are forgiven.  
We have every chance to begin again.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that!**

## †Hymn 162

The First Noel

## Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise be to Christ.**

**Anthem**

**"Gesù Bambino" (The Infant Jesus)**

by Pietro A. Yon

Christina & Jonathan Ray, vocalists  
w/ Colleen Ostercamp

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows,  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.*

*O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord.*

<b>Message</b>	<i>Wisdom of the Wise</i>	Pastor Greg Hunt
<b>Invitation to the Table</b>		Pastor Greg Hunt
<b>Words of Institution</b>		Pastor Greg Hunt
<b>Celebration of Communion</b>		
<b>Prayer after Communion</b>		Pastor Brittany McDonald Null
<b>†Hymn of Response 181</b>		As with Gladness Men of Old
<b>Life of the Church</b>		Pastor Brittany McDonald Null
<b>†Benediction</b>		Pastor Brittany McDonald Null
<b>†Postlude</b>		Colleen Ostercamp, <i>organ</i>

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# Worship Notes

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*Vestments were quilted by Norma Baker and designed by A Sanctified Art. The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to light our way.*

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*, Words: James Montgomery, 1816, 185, alt. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867.

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

*As with Gladness Men of Old*, Words: William C. Dix, c. 1858, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838.

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# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, January 5

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, January 6

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Tuesday, January 7

1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

## Wednesday, January 8

6:00 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm Chancel Bells

## Thursday, January 9

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

## Sunday, January 12

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)



## 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

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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