



ELIZABETH

Our Worship of God

December 14, 2025

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

~ Third Sunday of Advent ~

In the days of empires
and puppet regimes,
God speaks.

Through wombs,
wrested and discarded
because they were unviable.
This is what they do:
the Romes,
the Babylons,
the USAs,
the men—
toss to the side, as detritus,
what they've deemed unfit
to be utilized.

But God speaks through wombs,
birthing prophetic utterances.
The object of public scorn
given the power to name
the happenings of the Lord.
Elizabeth is her name.
Say her name.
It is she who will be
the one through whom
the covenant is kept.

She, like a priestess, speaks her word
while the leading male voices
are shut. Enough
of this unbelieving religion
that masquerades as faith.
Divine favor is placed
on what we have disgraced.

- Drew Edward Jackson

Gathering Chime

*As the bell is chimed, we invite you to pause, center yourself,
and prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Prelude	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence <i>Chancel Choir</i> Noah Hartsfield and Calvin, <i>cymbells</i>	arr. John Ferguson
Welcome		Pastor Kristin McAtee
Embodiment Practice		Pastor Kristin McAtee
Opening Prayer		Pastor Kristin McAtee
†Opening Hymn 133		O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
†Passing the Peace of Christ		
Children's Message		Pastor Brittany McDonald Null
†Hymn 135		Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The birth of Jesus has been told and retold
a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective.

**But who is telling the story changes how we hear it,
how we imagine it, how we experience it.**

**We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new,
unknown story to unfold.**

The first candle is lit.

**We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay
attention to the needs of those around us.**

The second candle is lit.

Guided Meditation on Joy

A joy our world needs to experience this season,
not to hide from what is wrong, but to strengthen God's people
to bear a world that is not right.

**Today, we also light the candle of joy because joy sustains us
in the midst of uncertainty.**

The third candle is lit.

Affirmation of Joy (responsive)

Let us affirm God's gift of life-giving and justice-seeking joy.

We believe "joy is the justice we give ourselves."

**Because God's joy dwells with the humble
and is rooted in justice,
we find its warmth and light shine brightest
through shared witness
and sacred disruption.**

**We believe joy grows through blessing others
and fostering authentic relationships.**

**We believe joy is more than a feeling or the things we possess.
Joy is our faith made visible and something we share
by choosing connection.**

We believe joy is truth and truth-telling.

**We believe joy is active resistance, Spirit-filled solidarity,
and the bringing of God's dream.**

**We believe true joy is not the opposite of heartache,
but lives right within the swirl of our grief and hardest emotions.
We celebrate the depth of God's joy and how it can hold our pain.
When we are filled with this kind of joy,
we celebrate what God is birthing now,
even amid a world where so much appears to be ending.**

We believe joy is freedom and healing, redemption and return.

**We believe joy comes from knowing God is close,
even when life is hard.**

**God's joy shows up not just in breathtaking beauty
but in moments we hurt so much we can't breathe.**

We choose justice.

We choose love.

We choose each other.

We choose joy.

Anthem

Come to Us, O Promised One
by Lloyd Larson & Jan McGuire
Chancel Choir w/ Carter Thiemann, *piano*

*Come to us, O Promised One
Fill our emptiness with love
Whisper to our longing hearts
Your words of hope from up above
Come as the prophets did foretell:
God with us, Emmanuel*

*Come to Us, O Counselor
Bind each battered, broken heart
Steady ev'ry stumbling step
Heal each life that's torn apart
Come as the prophets did foretell:
God with us, Emmanuel*

*Come to us, O Prince of Peace
Save us from our endless strife
Teach us how to walk in love
Lead us to abundant life*

*Come to Us, O Mighty One
Come in love to save us all
Wrap your strength in tenderness
Lift us up each time we fall
Come as the prophets did foretell:
God with us, Emmanuel*

Luke 1:39-55

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,
just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

†Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be - hold the glo - rious
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple,
 3. Re - deem-er, come! We o - pen wide our hearts to you; here,
 4. So come, our Sov-ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler

Rul - er waits! The Sov-ereign One is draw - ing
 set a - part from earth - ly use for heav-en's em -
 Christ, a - bide! Let us your in - ner pres - ence
 life be - gin; your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us

near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 feel, your grace and love in us re - veal.
 on, un - til the glo - ri - ous crown be won.

†Life of the Church

Pastor Kristin McAtee

†Benediction

†Postlude

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. H. Hopson

Worship Notes

God Speaks Through Wombs, by Drew Edward Jackson from *God Speaks Through Wombs: Poems on God's Unexpected Coming*.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Words: Latin hymn, 12th C; tr John M Neale, 1851. Music: Thomas Helmore, 1854; based on plainsong phrases.

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

While by the Sheep We Watched, Words & Music: Traditional German Carol; arr. Hugo Jüngst.

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates, Words: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt. Music: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789.

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Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 14

- 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 Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 15

- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

- 1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

Wednesday, December 17

- 6:30 pm Chancel Bells in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 18

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

Sunday, December 21

- 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
- 4:00 pm Intergenerational Advent in the College Room
- 6:00 pm Blue Christmas in the Sanctuary

Announcements

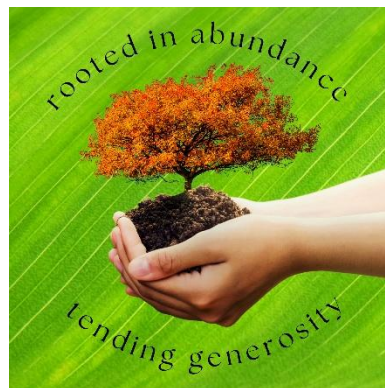
Welcome Visitors!

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



Rooted in Abundance, Tending Generosity

We ask you to prayerfully consider your giving for next year. We know this is a personal and sensitive matter, but it is also a spiritual discipline. Pledge cards are available for you to record your commitment. *You can turn in your pledge anonymously.* We encourage all to make a pledge as a prayerful practice, and as a way to help our church practice good stewardship. Cards can be placed in the offering plates.



First Baptist Christmas Dinner - Today, December 14 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 with A-M and a dessert if your last name begins with N-Z. Come feast and celebrate with us!



Blue Christmas

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

December 21 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

Blue Christmas – December 21 - 6 pm in the Sanctuary

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 21. Our service will provide space for silence, prayer, and lament.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

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 - December 28

10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for Brunch Worship on Sunday, December 28, 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. **Brunch Worship is an in-person event and there will be no 9:15 or 11:15 am services.**





First Baptist Church

1112 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201

Rev. Kristin McAtee, Senior Pastor

Rev. Brittany McDonald Null, Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation

Jonathan Ray, Director of Music

Shelby Pride, Director of Music and Worship Technology

Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist

Noah Hartsfield, Handbell Director

Susan Goudie, Office Coordinator

Brenda Rice, Fine Arts & Community Liaison

Mike Ide, Custodian

Nellene Martin, Childcare Director