



# *Our Worship of God*

*January 4, 2026*

*11:15 am*

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

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## *~ Epiphany ~*

### **Alert to the Times**

*Wake up! The hardest work is to keep  
from being lulled to sleep. To resist the  
glazing over of my eyes and to stay alert  
to the times. These are tyrannical days.  
Power is used in diabolical ways. Displays  
of allegiance will keep them off my back,  
but they will remain on our necks.  
So, what's next? This is a game of loyalty.  
Who will I be in this moment of history?*

*- 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**

**Variations: Bethlehem, the House of Bread**  
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

Burton

**Welcome**

Pastor Kristin McAtee

**†Hymn 576**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

**Communion**

**Prayer**

Pastor Kristin McAtee

**†Passing the Peace of Christ**

**†Hymn 182**

Brightest and Best of the Stars

**Sharing Our Gifts**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

**Special Music**

**Joseph's Lullaby**

Jonathan Ray & Colleen Ostercamp

### Matthew 2:1-15

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him.” Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.*

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

## †Hymn 73

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

### Message

*The Path of Wisdom*

Pastor Kristin McAtee

## †Hymn 539

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

### Response in Prayer – Star Words

Pastor Kristin McAtee

### Affirmation of Faith (responsive)

Pastor Kristin McAtee

We believe God's revelation comes to us in the quiet and the subtle,  
from the margins and in the cries of nature.

**God's revelation comes through dreams, the light of stars,  
and the voices of those fearing for their lives.**

We believe the message of God's revelation is always an urgent one,  
calling for immediate trust and radical care.

**It continually points toward justice, asking us to defy and resist  
the harmful forces around us.**

We believe, like Joseph, who protected his family,  
God's revelation shines on the path of protection,  
asking us to be sheltering arms for the vulnerable.

**We believe, like the magi, who listened to the voice of the Spirit  
rather than that of empire,  
God's revelation calls us to courageous faith  
and embodied resistance.**

We believe, like a single star shining in the sky, God's revelation  
empowers us to a purity of heart and calling, where we have clarity  
on what we are to do, and live it out with simple, steady faithfulness.

**So we commit ourselves to small acts of courage as holy epiphanies,  
trusting that with each one,  
God's revelation will spread and shine.**

**†Life of the Church**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

**†Benediction**

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

**†Postlude**

**Joy to the World & Glory to God**

Handel/arr. Hopson

Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

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# Worship Notes

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*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, Words & Music: Anonymous.

*Brightest and Best of the Stars*, Words: Reginald Heber, 1811. Music: James P. Harding, 1892; adapt. The Church Hymnal, 1894.

*Joseph's Lullaby*, by Brown Bannister, Bart Millard, and MercyMe

*God Moves in a Mysterious Way*, Words: William Cowper, 1774. Music: Scottish Psalter, 1615.

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, Words & Music: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966.

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# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, January 4

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 5

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Tuesday, January 6

1:00 pm Crafty Critters in the Conference Room

## Wednesday, January 7

6:00 pm Youth Group  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells in the Sanctuary

## Thursday, January 8

10:30 am First Baptist Women's Zoom Book Study  
6:00 pm Crafter Hours

## Sunday, January 11

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)



## New Sermon Series: *Church in the Chaos*

*Church in the Chaos* explores the first seven chapters of Acts, where the early church stumbles, argues, improvises, and discovers the Spirit's leading in real time. Far from a polished blueprint, Acts shows a community as messy and uncertain as the church is today — facing opposition, wrestling with identity, and figuring out what faithfulness looks like in the middle of disruption.

Through all the chaos, God keeps guiding, redirecting, and holding them. This series invites us to find hope not in perfection, but in the truth that the same Spirit who sustained them is still at work in us.



**CHURCH IN THE CHAOS**

# FIRST BAPTIST GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 @ 6PM



## First Baptist Game Night - Friday, January 16 at 6:00 pm

Calling all board game enthusiasts! Join us each month at 6:00 pm in the parlor for our Board Games Night. Whether you're a strategic mastermind or a casual player, this event is for you! Come and indulge in an evening filled with laughter, friendly competition, and memorable moments. Grab your favorite board game and challenge your friends to a thrilling match. From classic favorites to modern gems, there will be a wide variety of games available for all tastes and skill levels.

## Flamy Grant in Concert at First Baptist – January 31 at 6:00 pm

We are thrilled to welcome Flamy Grant to First Baptist in concert on January 31st. In 2023, Flamy made drag history when her debut album *Bible Belt Baby* reached #1 on the iTunes Christian music charts. Since then, she has earned national recognition across music and media while continuing to push beyond genre boundaries with her sophomore album *CHURCH*. Rooted in Appalachian folk and infused with drag excellence, her work reminds us that faith is not fragile, God is not small, and beauty often shows up exactly where some have been told it cannot.

This is why we are excited to bring Flamy Grant to First Baptist.

As a church committed to inclusion, creative expression, intellectual honesty, and a faith that makes room for questions and full humanity, Flamy's work resonates deeply with who we are and who we are becoming. Her music embodies a theology we recognize: holiness emerges when love, truth, and courage are present. Shame belongs in the closet. Grace belongs everywhere.

Flamy Grant offers more than a performance. She offers a communal experience that is fearless, flamboyant, tender, and transformative. We cannot wait to gather, listen, laugh, and witness together.

You are invited. Bring your curiosity, your questions, and your whole self. Entrance is free and the concert begins at 6pm.





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*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