



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Historic | Liturgical | Vibrant

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021 at 11:00 am

COVID Reminders

1.) Maintain social distancing while in the Sanctuary.

2.) Wear a mask at all times, especially during congregational singing.

3.) Guests are asked to fill out a Visitor's Card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate near the door as you exit.

Music Notes

"Joy to the World" is one of the most beloved Christmas carols of all time, but it is actually not a Christmas song at all. Rather, it was written as a paraphrase of Psalm 98. The beloved carol weaves together musical phrases from Handel's "Messiah." The person to combine the melodies in this way was Lowell Mason, a pioneer in American music who once served as organist at Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah, GA.

* Asterisks throughout the order of worship indicate the people standing, in body or in spirit.

WE PRAISE GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & INVOCATION

Rev. Katie Callaway & Rev. John Callaway, Co-Pastors

PRELUDE - "Joy to the World/O Come, Let Us Adore Him" arr. Carol Tornquist
Dr. Justin L. Addington, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God of our ancestors, you created us all in your image.
People: So we have the courage to dream the impossible.
Pastor: You spoke into the darkness and created light.
People: So we have the courage to dream the impossible.
Pastor: You delivered us and continue to do so even today.
People: So let us dream the impossible together. Amen.

* HYMN - "Joy to the World"

Tune: ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love.**

- Text by Isaac Watts

Liturgical Season

First Baptist Church follows the liturgical seasons of the Christian Year as a means of marking time together. We are currently in the Season After Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Christ. The liturgical colors for the season are white and gold, representing purity and joy.

Sermon Series Theme

Our theme for this Advent/Christmas Season was "Exploring the Dreams of God." This was reflected in the homilies, our music/liturgy, and our Advent Devotional Booklet. With this theme, we have explore the Old Testament lessons, particularly focusing on the prophets, alongside the common New Testament lessons used during Advent/Christmas. Christians often struggle to interpret the Old Testament lessons in any other way than as predictions for Jesus. We hope that we have challenged that common error as we explored our seasonal theme.

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* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*In Unison*)

**We believe that when the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.
Let us do the work of Christmas together! Amen.**

- Adapted from Howard Thurman

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*Sung*)

Tune: GLORIA

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son.
Glory be to God the Spirit; ever three and ever one.
Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.**

- Text adapted from Horatius Bonar

WE LISTEN TO GOD

DEDICATION OF JOHN GANNON COSMÉ

The people will be asked to respond, "With God's help, we will."

POEM - "The Sleeping Child"
The Chandler Family

by Charles Bennett

* GOSPEL LESSON - Luke 2:41-52

Pastor: This is the written Word of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - "Losing Sight of the Dream"
Rev. Katie Callaway & Rev. John Callaway

* HYMN - "There's a Song in the Air"

Tune: CHRISTMAS SONG

**There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King!**

**There's a tumult of joy
O'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a King!**

(Continued)

**In the light of that star
Lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar
Has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
And the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
That Jesus is King!**

**We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the song
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
Evangel they bring,
And we greet in his cradle
Our Savior and King!**

- Text by Josiah G. Holland

WE RESPOND TO GOD

TIME OF RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*In Unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*Sung*)

Tune: MARGARET

**Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for thee.**

- Text by E.S. Elliot

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY - "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
Dr. Justin L. Addington, Piano

arr. Tom Fettke

Children in Worship

A nursery is available below the Sanctuary for children. Those wishing to remain with their families may do so. All children are invited to come to the front pew during the closing hymn to aid the ministers with the benediction. Children worship bags are located in the Narthex.

Question for Reflection

How do you keep the flame of your dream alive when challenges arise?

You are invited to respond to this question in the comments section of the Facebook livestream.

Giving

If you would like to participate in worship by giving monetarily, you may place a donation in the offering plate near the doors of the sanctuary, scan the QR code, or click "online giving" on our website: www.fbc-sav.org. You may also mail a contribution directly to PO Box 9551 Savannah, GA 31412.



* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*Sung*)

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- Text by James Montgomery

WE GO TO SERVE GOD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

* HYMN - "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

Tune: GO TELL IT

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)**

**Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)**

- Text from an African American Spiritual

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (*Sung*)

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

- Text by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, alt.

POSTLUDE - "Joy to the World/Hallelujah Chorus"
Dr. Justin L. Addington, Organ

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

The congregation is invited to be seated for the postlude.

About Our Church

First Baptist Church is a welcoming congregation located in historic downtown Savannah, Georgia. We believe Jesus treated everyone with a spirit of love and equality. Therefore, we accept every individual without regard to age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status. We affirm all persons as created in the image of God. At First Baptist Church, individuals can find family, families can find community, the injured can find healing, and all can seek truth and justice. We labor together in love for each other, our community, our world, and our God. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, **you are welcomed, you are accepted, you are loved.**

Contact Us

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