



by Robyn Sand Anderson

First Baptist Church

Greensboro, North Carolina

gathers for

The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

A Service of Carols

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Handbell Choir

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

Opening the Bible Griffin Kesler

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Choral Introit Sanctuary Choir

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" Text by Aurelius C. Prudentius; DIVINUM MYSTERIUM,
13th Century Plainsong arranged by Paul Wohlgemuth

*Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He
the source, the ending, He, Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!*

*O that birth forever blessed, When the virgin full of grace, By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race, And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his face, Evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow
before Him, And extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice
in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!*

Lighting the Advent Wreath Alan and Beverly Johnson
by Rev. Nancy Gowler

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form. Good news!
Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our joy.

†Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, all ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O Come, let us adore Him,

O Come, let us adore Him,

O Come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (refrain)

†Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Community Rev. Courtney Willis

Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.

Old Testament Lesson Ava Danford
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Carol Sanctuary Choir

“Angels’ Carol” Words and Music by John Rutter

Prayers of God’s People Rev. Chris Cherry

†Carol 174

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE
(stanzas 1-4)

Gospel Lesson Kim Shively
Luke 1:46b-55

Carol Sanctuary Choir

“Candlelight Carol” Words and Music by John Rutter

Homily Rev. Sherouse

Carol Sanctuary Choir

“The Dream Isaiah Saw” Text by Thomas H. Troeger; Music by Glenn Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.

Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw

Peace will pervade more than forest and field; God will transfigure the violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain.

Nature reordered to match God’s intent, nations obeying the call to repent, All of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.

Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

†Hymn of Response

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” HYFRYDOL

If you would like to become a member of this congregation,
you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.

Stanza 1: Congregation

Love Divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Stanza 2 – Choir only

*Come, O Sov'reign Prince of Heaven, Come, O Wondrous Love Divine
Earth and Heaven bow before Thee, Everlasting Peace Sublime.
O Thou Source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek Thy face.
At Thy manger grant us mercy, In Thine Advent grant us grace.*

Stanza 3 – Congregation

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory in to glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Stewardship Prayer Tom Smith *deacon*

Choral Offertory Sanctuary Choir

“Where Shepherd’s Lately Knelt” Text by Jaroslav J. Vajda; Music by Craig Courtney
*Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel’s word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim
strangely stirred, but there is room and welcome there for me.
In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet newborn babe how frail! And in a
manger bed; a still small voice to cry one day for me.
How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophesies fulfilled? With
pounding heart I stare: a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.
Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart Unasked,
unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me?*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Choral Response Sanctuary Choir

“The Work of Christmas” Text by Howard Thurman; Music by Dan Forrest
*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins; To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the pris’ner, To rebuild the nations;
To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.*

†Postlude

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” HYFRYDOL

Instrumentalists

Organ/Piano – Reid Gilliam
Flute – Jerico Carillo
Trombone – Jack Hopper, Brannon Kling
Percussion – Erik Schmidt

Violin – Rebekah Carlson, Ingrid Carlson
Trumpet – Jake Robertson, Gavin Tranter
French Horn – Kai Summerlin

Sanctuary Choir

Soprano
Cheryl Angel
Amelia Barnes
Margaret Crawford
Marie Delgado
Sarah Frye
Genelle Hix
Maggie Martin
Sarah Persia
Lorie Rainey
Marsha Thompson
Gayle Wager
Teresa Whitehead

Alto
Nancy Davis
Shaunya Joyner
Shelby Moss
Jill Pegram
Penny Rowe
Levone Scott
Beverly Sherouse
Lollie White
Becky Yaun

Tenor
Jim Bearden
Don Fuller
Bill Hix
Jeff Perry

Bass
Jeff Bennett
Jerico Carillo
Nathan Hall
Baker Lawrimore
Jody Moore
Matt Messick
Tony Pettitt
Mike Risotti
Craig Sherouse

Handbells

Jim Bearden
Marsha Thompson
Bill Hix
Holly Messick
Libby Johnson
Amy Starr Russell
Alice Culclasure

Shelby Moss
Sarah Persia
Madilyn Hix
Penny Rowe
Marie Delgado
Mollie Pardue



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO CONNECTIONS

December 17, 2023

SPONTANEOUS NATIVITY | Tonight, December 17 at 4:30 pm

Parents are invited to bring their children at 4 pm to pick out their costumes. We welcome everyone else to join us at 4:30 in the sanctuary for the program. Following the program everyone is invited for breakfast for dinner, no reservations needed.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE | Wednesday, December 20 at 6 pm

This year, we are setting aside time for a service of encouragement through reflection, prayer and song. If your heart is feeling particularly tender during the Advent season, please make plans to join us in the Chapel on Wednesday, December 20 at 6 pm.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Each December, in addition to our regular end-of-year giving, we invite contributions to two special offerings. First, the CBF Offering for Global Missions, which supports the work of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Field Personnel serving throughout the world. Second, the Christmas Eve Offering, which the Missions Committee has designated this year toward the advocacy and education work of Baptist Women In Ministry. Offerings are collected through our usual channels, including at fbcgso.org/give.

CHRISTMAS EVE FOOTBALL | Saturday, December 24 at Noon

Everyone is invited to join our Christmas Eve Football game. We'll meet at Lake Daniel Park, over by the basketball court, and play until there's a declared winner or our fingers freeze - whichever comes first! All are welcome.

GIVING TREE | Return gifts by Monday, December 18

This is the last week to bring Giving Tree gifts to the church. Please bring all gifts to the Giving Tree when the church is open and no later than Monday, December 18.

HONOR CARDS | Available until Wednesday, December 20

Last call for Honor Cards! They are available today and then in the church office through Wednesday. You may pay with cash or check made out directly to the organization.

WOMEN'S RETREAT | February 9 - 11, 2024

Join us for an intergenerational women's retreat in Eagle Eyrie, VA. Today is the last day for the "early bird" registration for only \$165. More info at: fbcgso.org/womens-retreat-2024.

GREECE TRIP | May 5-13, 2024

Travel to Greece to discover Paul's First Missionary Journey May 5-13, 2024! Deposits are due January 15 since the trip is coming up quickly. For more information, find a brochure at the sanctuary entrances, or talk to Courtney Willis.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO

SPONTANEOUS NATIVITY

Sunday, December 17 at 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary

LONGEST NIGHT

Wednesday, December 20 at 6 pm in the Chapel

ADVENT 4 MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24 at 9:45 am for Coffee & Cocoa
10:30 am in the Sanctuary for Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 at 5 pm in the Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

EPIPHANY SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 7 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Sunday School returns at 9:30 am

PASTORAL STAFF

CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES

BUCK COCHRAN, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

SETH HIX, MUSIC (INTERIM)

ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR

AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE

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