

# First Baptist Church at Worship

## The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021  
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

### Gathering

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.  
**And also with you.***

Opening Voluntary

*I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In*

setting by Robert Powell

Samuel Garr, clarinet; Carolyn Garr, piano

*The virgin Mary and Christ were there ...  
And all the bells on earth shall ring ...  
Then let us all rejoice amain ...  
... on Christmas Day in the morning!  
- traditional English carol*

Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks and Alex Lockridge

*The world says, "Worry,"  
but I say, "Rejoice."  
The world says, "Fear,"  
but I say, "Rejoice."  
The world says, "Distrust,"  
but I say, "Rejoice."  
"Rejoice in the Lord always."  
Again I say, "Rejoice!"*

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Olivia Gregory and Lisa Harrison

*As we light our third Advent candle,  
we pray for hope, peace, and joy.  
Come now, Child of Mary.  
Come now, Child of Joy.*

Hymn 102

*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

ANTIOCH

## Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

*Merciful God, we confess that in the midst of Your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord through our words or our deeds, through our actions or our thoughts. Grant us Your mercy in forgiveness. Lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by Your glorious light.*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

## Act of Praise

MENDELSSOHN

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"*

- Charles Wesley

# Proclaiming

## A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

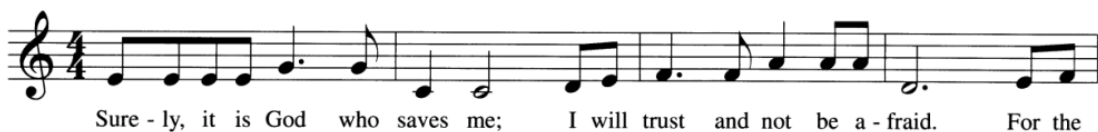
## A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Alex Lockridge

Zephaniah 3:14-20

## Canticle – The First Song of Isaiah

by Jack Noble White



*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:  
**Give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name;  
make known God's deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that God's name is exalted.***

(continued on page 3)

*Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.*

***Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. REFRAIN***

- Isaiah 12:2-6

A Reading from the Gospels  
Luke 3:7-18

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

Hymn *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,*

*Calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:*

*"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.*

*Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above."*

*With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,*

*And his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.*

*So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,*

*Till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.*

- Carl P. Daw

Sermon

"Transformed by Joy"

Alex Lockridge

## Responding

Hymn 119

*His Name Is Called Emmanuel*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

If you desire to become a follower of Christ or if you wish to present yourself for membership today,  
please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

Offertory Prayer

Jeremiah Banks

Offertory

*Rejoice and Be Merry*

by Robert Powell

Samuel Garr, clarinet; Carolyn Garr, piano

Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

The Lord's Prayer

***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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. Amen.***

Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL

*To You, O Christ, all glory be, whose advent sets Your people free;  
Whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore;  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Sending

Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge and Jeremiah Banks

*... and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

- from Philippians 4

Organ Postlude

*How Great Our Joy*

by Anne Davis

*This gift of God we'll cherish well, that every joy our hearts shall fill.  
How great our joy! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!*

- traditional German carol

*The Advent Wreath is placed in loving memory of*

**Felix and Mattie Pace**

*and*

**Leonard and Marie Leake**

*by*

*Kevin and Sherry Pace*

*Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson, Harrison, and Emerson Lowe*

"I Saw Three Ships," Robert J. Powell.

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Today's organ music is from a library of more than 1,000 digitized hymns, anthems, and solo-organ music that Gayle Majors recorded over the last several years. We are thankful for Gayle's life, for her 36-year tenure as Organist for First Baptist Church, and for this fine legacy that she has left for us.