

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

“Power From on High”

Gathering

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

Delilah and Gracie Blevins, acolytes

Prelude

Christ Is Born Today!

arr. by G.M. Martin

Lighting the Candle of Love

Mary Griffith and Joyce Parker

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be? And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

In this season of waiting and expectation, we pray for power from on high that God would come down and heal our broken world.

We light this candle as a sign of love for this world, and we wait in anticipation for our coming Lord.

In love, we worship the God who is mindful of us.

+Hymn 119

His Name Is Called Emmanuel

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

+Prayer of the Day

Jeremiah Banks

*Most High God, for you nothing is impossible. Through a poor young woman in a small town, you gave birth to your realm of endless glory. By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope and overshadow us with your power and grace so that we, like Mary, might be your servants, bearing witness to your Word; through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign. **Amen.***

+Act of Praise

GLORIA

***See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

Proclaiming

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 1:26-38

Alex Lockridge

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn of Expectation

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, ad peace to all the earth!
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,, be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 1:46-55

Carolyn Garr

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

“The Power of Love”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 114

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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

Loose change received in December will go to the White Flag Ministry fund.

Offertory

What Child is This?

arr. by Lani Smith

+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

+Sending Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY

please see back page

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

*Beloved, just as the shepherds heard the angels' news and rushed to find the Christ child,
Go now glorifying and praising God, declaring the good news: our wondrous Light has come!
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

setting by D. Lasky

+all who are able may stand

*The Advent wreath is placed in memory of
Felix & Mattie Pace and
Leonard & Marie Leake*

by

Kevin & Sherry Pace; Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson, Harrison, & Emerson Lowe

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.

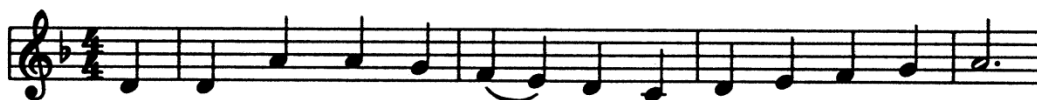
Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734945. All rights reserved.

Worship for Christmas Eve

This evening at Six O'clock

an offering will be received that will be used throughout the coming year to help local families with emergency needs

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah this bless - ed babe was born,
3. From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,



for Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior was born up - on this day,
and laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn:
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind,



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
for which his moth - er Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the bless - ed babe to find.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

David Garr, trumpet Edward Garr, percussion Nick Hibbard, saxophone