

First Baptist Church at Worship

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

“Power From on High”

Gathering

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

Prelude

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. by Ken Litton

FBC Handbell Choir

Lighting the Candle of Hope

The Whitaker Family

David and Deacon, acolytes

When God's people were in exile, living in fear and uncertainty, the prophet cried out to God, saying,

“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.”

Entering 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 hope for this world, and we wait in anticipation for our coming Lord.

In hope, we worship the God who came down.

+Gathering Hymn

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

CWM RHONDDA

Lo, He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;

Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of His train:

Alleluia, alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him, robed in splendor's majesty;

Those who set at naught and sold Him, pierced and nailed Him to the tree,

Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Now the Savior, long expected, see, in solemn pomp appear;

All who have not Him rejected now shall meet Him in the air:

Alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear.

Now, amen, we sing Your victory, high on Your eternal throne;

Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for Your own:

O, come quickly, O come quickly! Everlasting God, come down.

+Confession and Assurance Jeremiah Banks
*... We trust in things that pass away and forget your eternal promise. **Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by your hand, so that we may be ready for that day when you come to reign in glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

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

+The Peace Alex Lockridge
*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.*

+Act of Praise GLORIA
*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Proclaiming

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 Carolyn Garr
*The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God*

Children's Sermon Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn of Expectation *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* BEACH SPRING
*Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
Seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome Him.
Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome Him.
Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome You.*

A Reading from the Gospels: Mark 13:24-37 Brandon Wood
*The Gospel of our Lord
Thanks be to God*

Responding

+Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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

Alice Tremaine

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

Offertory Anthem

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

arr. by Keith Christopher

Prayers of the People

Jeremiah Banks

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

+Sending Hymn

O God of Every Nation

ELLACOMBE

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation with Your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.
From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
From pride of race and nation and blindness to Your way,
Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray!*

(Hymn continues on next page)

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

*Beloved of God, keep awake! Stay alert! Pay attention to God at work all around you.
And now, go from this place blessed to be surprised and empowered by hope
To watch and wait and join in the work of bringing God's dream for all creation to life. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

setting by Roy Bruner

+all who are able may stand

leading in worship today

Rev. Jeremiah Banks
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Donna Davis
Organist

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr
Interim Music Director

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

Rev. Alice Tremaine
Deacon

Brandon Wood
reader

*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.