

# First Baptist Church at Worship

December 31, 2023  
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

## Christmastide

### Singing of Carols

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain* 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!*

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow and he is in the manger now:  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!*

*Away in a Manger* MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*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, and peace to men on earth!*

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.  
For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

# Gathering

Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks

*In Christ, the fullness of time has come.*

***The Spirit and the Son are with us.***

*As beloved children of God we pray:*

***Shine in our lives, Lord Jesus Christ.***

*Let us worship the newborn King.*

+Hymn 127

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

+Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Carolyn Garr

*O glory unapproachable! O light inaccessible! How far you could be from us! Yet by your choosing, how close you are, how intimate! By your Christ your grace is visible and touchable! We see him smile; we hear him cry. O God our wonderful God, we love, worship and adore you! Through this same Christ Jesus, your Son and our Savior. **Amen.***

+The Peace

(Children, Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, are invited to meet at the exit nearest the baptistry to go to Children's Church.)

*The peace of the Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

+Act of Praise

GLORIA

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?***

***What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?***

***Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

# Proclaiming

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 2:22-40

Gloria Cornett

*The Gospel of our Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

Sermon

"When the Time Came"

Jeremiah Banks

# Responding

+Hymn 129

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

Nick Hibbard, pianist

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

Lucas Tremaine

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

Piano Offertory

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

arr. by Charlie Sinclair

Katherine Whitaker, pianist

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 Christmas

THE FIRST NOWELL

*To God, all glorious heav'nly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thanks and praise.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

# Sending

+Commission and Blessing

Jeremiah Banks

*Beloved of God, depart now in peace, knowing that you have encountered Christ, our Savior.  
Go now to watch, to wait, and to spread the light of Christ to the ends of the world,  
That God's kingdom might reign on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

setting by A.L. Page

*Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!*

+all who are able may stand

*leading in worship today*

Rev. Jeremiah Banks  
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Gloria Cornett  
reader

Donna Davis  
Organist

Samuel Garr  
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr  
Interim Music Director

Rev. Alex Lockridge  
Senior Pastor

Lucas Tremaine  
prayer

*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.

\*supplemental organ music by William P. Young, III

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