

# First Baptist Church at Worship

January 7, 2024  
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

## Epiphany of the Lord

### Gathering

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

Prelude

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
Nick Hibbard, saxophone

arr. by J.A. Willis

Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks

*We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'*

***We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.***

*We gather asking, 'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'*

***We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.***

*We gather wanting to know, 'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'*

***We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.***

*Let us worship Christ, the Light of the world.*

+Hymn 158

*Jesus Shall Reign*

DUKE STREET

+Prayer of Confession

Alex Lockridge

*...rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. **Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.***

+Assurance of Forgiveness

*Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:*

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

+The Peace

Jeremiah Banks

*The peace of the Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

+Act of Praise

FESTAL SONG

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.  
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.*

David Garr, trumpet

## Proclaiming

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Carolyn Garr

Isaiah 60:1-6

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn 151

*We Three Kings*

KINGS OF ORIENT

A Reading from the Gospels

Pam Worthy

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

"Guiding Light"

Alex Lockridge

## Responding

+Hymn of Response

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

NYLAND

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.

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,  
To take away transgressions, and rule with equity.  
He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,  
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.  
To Christ shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.  
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.*

+Offertory Prayer

Jackson Lowe

Loose change received in January will go to Olive Branch Ministries.

Offertory Anthem

*Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come*

Allen Pote

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## Sending

+Hymn 156

stanzas 1 & 3

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

SHINE

Alice Tremaine, cantor

+Commission and Blessing

Jeremiah Banks & Alex Lockridge

*Go now, seek out the Christ wherever he may be found.  
Bring light to those in thick darkness, a voice to those no one speaks for,  
And hope to those no one cares for.*

*And may God make you a sharer in the promised light.  
May Christ Jesus fill you with his sense of what is right.  
And may the Holy Spirit be to you like rain that gives life to the fertile earth. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

*Jesus Shall Reign*

setting by Lani Smith

+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

Jackson Lowe  
prayer

Pam Worthy  
reader

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in commemoration of the January birthdays of  
E.R. Hopper, Sr. (10<sup>th</sup>) and E.R. Hopper, Jr. (6<sup>th</sup>)  
by  
The Family*

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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