

First Baptist Church at Worship

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 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.*

Organ Voluntary

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

by Robert Powell

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
- Charles Wesley*

Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

*The world says, "All is lost."
God says, "All are loved."
The darkness says, "The light is dying."
The light says, "The fire is spreading."
Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."
Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."*

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Ellie and Casey Petrey

*As we light our first Advent candle,
we pray for the holy hope of God.
Come now, Child of Mary.
Come now, Child of Hope.*

Hymn 79

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

*Coming Christ, You may not find us as You hoped.
**We have looked away from signs we do not wish to see.
We have stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.***

(continued on page 2)

*Keep us alert, O God, to the need of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.*

Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.

Sober our lives addicted to privilege.

Show us the signs of Your coming,

that we may stand before You,

the Child of Hope, in whose name we pray.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Act of Praise

O STORE GUD

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: how great Thou art!...

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: how great Thou art!...

- Stuart K. Hine

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Alice Tremaine

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Paul Sims

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25

setting by Hal H. Hopson



To You, O God, I lift up my soul,

O my God, in You I trust; do not let me be put to shame;

do not let those who wait for You be put to shame;

Make me to know Your ways, O God; teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth, and teach me,

for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all day long.

Be mindful of Your mercy, O God, and of Your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to Your steadfast love remember me,

for Your goodness sake, O God.

A Reading from the Gospels

Alex Lockridge

Luke 21:25-36

Hymn

The Days Are Surely Coming

AURELIA

*The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
When you will see My promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
And you will be delivered by My almighty hand.
The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
When you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
For I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.
The days are surely coming when we will know at last
The fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
And we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.*

- David Gambrell

Sermon

"Signs of Hope"

Alex Lockridge

Responding

Hymn 562

Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

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

Sherry Pace

Piano Offertory

It Is Well with My Soul

setting by Mark Hayes

Donna Davis

*And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back like a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so" – it is well with my soul.*

- Horatio G. Spafford

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 Paul Sims

*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.
And may God strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless
before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

- from I Thessalonians 3

Organ Postlude

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

by Sam Batt Owens

Hail Christ the Lord! Your people pray, come quickly, King of kings!

- ancient Greek hymn

The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of

David Burton

by

JoAnn Burton

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

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.