

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

by J. S. Bach

BWV 147

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned;
Striving still to truth unknown soaring, dying round Thy throne.
Through the way where hope is guiding, hark, what peaceful music rings;
Where the flock in Thee confiding, drink of joy from endless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure, theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead Thine own, in the love of joys unknown.*

- Martin Janus

Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

*Micah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel,
with a light of hope and words of peace.
Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary,
with a light of joy and words of love.*

Lighting the Candle of Love

Mitch Parker

*As we light our fourth Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.
Come now, Child of Mary.
Come now, Child of Love.*

Hymn 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

stanzas 1, 2, and 4

Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before You as children in need of Your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and our own abilities. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to Your hands.

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Act of Praise

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood humankind hath bought.
Nowell, ... born is the King of Israel.*

- traditional English carol

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Paul Sims

Micah 5:2-5a

A Reading from the Gospels

Alex Lockridge

Luke 1:26-38

Response

No Wind at the Window

CRADLE SONG

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lamp-stand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear: just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

"O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face. Be glad that you're
"This child must be born that the king-dom might come: sal - va - tion for
fa - vored and filled with God's grace. The time for re - deem - ing the
man - y, de - struc - tion for some; both end and be - gin - ning, both
world has be - gun, and you are re - quest - ed to moth - er God's Son."
me - sage and sign; both vic - tor and vic - tim, both yours and di - vine."

*No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, "Tell God I say, Yes."*

- John L. Bell

A Reading from the Gospels

Paul Sims

Luke 1:39-45

Canticle – The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

WOODLANDS

the congregation is invited to sing hymn 94: *Tell Out, My Soul*

Sermon

“Glimpses of Love”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

Hymn 114

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Offertory Prayer

Lynn Tipton

Offertory

Mary, Did You Know?

setting by Jack Schrader

Daniel Lowe, soloist; Carolyn Garr, accompanist

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm the storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding is the great "I AM."

- Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

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

*Go from this place knowing that you are blessed of the Lord.
May Christ, whose presence is among us, go with each of you
into your home and community, into your work and play, until you can say,
“Here I am, a servant of the Lord; may it be to me according to Your word.” Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Joyous Dialogue

by Alice Jordan

*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*

“No Wind at the Window,” John L. Bell.
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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.