

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

While We Are Waiting, Come

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

Organ Voluntary

Joyous Dialogue

by Alice Jordan

Lighting the Candle of Joy – The Taylor Family

Call to Worship

Lisa Harrison

Into the dry and desolate places of our lives, God brings salvation.

The desert rejoices and blossoms, the wilderness teems with life.

Sorrow and sighing will flee away –

Let us come into God's presence with singing!

+Hymn 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

+Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

*Advent God, You enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry,
to establish equity throughout the earth.*

***Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe
that You can right the world. We see suffering and sorrow and sin
and wonder if creation is beyond repair.***

But You hold out healing, wholeness, and joy.

You promise to drive out despair and free us from debilitating fear.

*Broaden our imaginations, that we might conceive of communities where all people
thrive and embody Your vision of shalom.*

***Expand our hearts, that we might see the extraordinary in our midst
and embrace the everlasting joy You bring.***

Make us prophets of the world You are bringing to birth,

that we might prepare a way before You and welcome You with gladness! Amen.

+Response

While We Are Waiting, Come

by Don Cason



While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come.
With power and glo - ry, come; with power and glo - ry, come.
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.

- Claire Cloninger

With Power and Glory, Come

Children's Sermon

Jeremiah Banks

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10 Alex Lockridge & Paul Sims

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

+Psalm 146

CAROL

Come praise the Lord with all our lives, sing thanks and praise each day.

No other One is worth our hope, for God alone can save.

How blest are those who hope in You, Creator of all things.

You heal the sick, You feed the poor, Your presence justice brings.

The blind find sight, the fallen hope, You set the prisoner free.

You give the homeless living space, but fell the proud like trees.

Your reign, O Lord, will never end. How can we count its days?

All generations young and old shall live to sing Your praise.

- Fred Anderson

A Reading from the Gospels: Matthew 11:2-6

Jeremiah Banks

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the One who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the One about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Response

*FESTAL SONG

“Are You the coming One for whom the ages long?”

“See pris’ners break their cruel chains and fill the night with song!”

“Are You the coming One for whom the suff’ring sigh?”

“The lame, the sick, the deaf and blind – I answer when they cry!”

“Are You the coming One for whom th’oppressed still wait?”

“The tyrant’s pride at last shall fall; all crooked ways be straight!”

“Are You the coming One for whom creation cries?”

“The earth, defiled, shall be restored and life from death shall rise!”

- Herman G. Stuempfle

Sermon

“Choose Joy – Travel on the Holy Way”

Alex Lockridge

Come, Savior, Quickly, Come

+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

Alex Tremaine

All loose change received in December will benefit our church’s benevolence ministries

Offertory Anthem

Prepare

by Allen Pote

Prepare the way of the Lord.

For God has chosen to come to earth, joining the human race.

Born a child in holy birth, taking a human face.

His name shall be Emmanuel, the baby born in the night.

God will be revealed in us, piercing the darkness with light.

Remembering Our Past

Lynn Tipton

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 do ne 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.*

While We Are Waiting, Come

+Hymn 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

*Go forth with joy and singing, with gladness and hope,
proclaiming to all the majesty of God.*

***We will establish our hearts for Christ's coming;
we will prepare the way for others to receive this Gift. Amen.***

Organ Postlude

Paeon on "Joy to the World"

by David Lasky

+all who are able may stand

The Advent wreath is given in loving memory of

Felix and Mattie Pace

Leonard and Marie Leake

by

Kevin and Sherry Pace

Daniel and Lindsay Lowe, Jackson, Harrison, and Emerson

The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of

Dave Huff

and in honor of

Pat Huff

by

their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

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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