

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting

Austin Carty

Organ Voluntary

“The reJOYsing”
Embrace the JOY. Express the JOY!

setting by Charles Callahan

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Paul Sims

*The third Advent candle denotes joy, not passing happiness, not fleeting laughter,
nor blind optimism, but the joy of God in our hearts. Here glows a light for joy.*

You see a candle of joy burning; what is your response?

God took great joy in creation and saw that it was “very good.”

God takes joy in us and longs for our fellowship.

The joy of God is mediated to us through faith in Jesus Christ.

We celebrate anew the coming of Messiah.

Behold the boundless joy of our Lord!

+Hymn 332

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

+Prayer of the Day

Paul Sims

... and the journey of God's people will be joy.

Amen.

+Response

AZMON

To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever given

By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

- Charles Wesley, 18th century

+Affirmation of Faith

Austin Carty

*In love, Jesus came to a stable in Bethlehem
to become one with us.*

*In love, Jesus walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea
to teach us how to live.*

*In love, Jesus was crucified on Calvary
to bear away our sin.*

*In love, Jesus rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden
to defeat death's power over us.*

*In love, Jesus ascended beyond the clouds
to be our reigning Lord.*

*Jesus came to love us, so that we need never feel
unloved, deserted, alone, condemned.*

Thanks be to God!

The Baptism of Myrissa Kelly Christy

Alex Lockridge

Response

Strengthen All the Weary Hands

setting by Don Brandon

1. *Strengthen all the weary hands, steady all the trembling knees, and say to all faint hearts:
Courage, courage, do not be afraid.*
2. *Waters flow in the wilderness, streams break forth amid arid deserts, burning sands turn to pools.
Be strong, fear not, for your God is near.*
3. *Then the ransomed shall return, they shall come to Zion with singing. Joy shall crown their heads.
Sorrow, sighing, all shall flee away.*
4. *Let the wilderness be glad, and the desert burst into blossom, dance and sing for joy!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*



Cour - age, cour - age, do not be a - fraid.
Be strong, fear not, for your God is near.
Sor - row, sigh - ing, all shall flee a - way.
Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

- Martie McMane, 20th century

The Word

Children's Sermon

Casey Petrey

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10

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, 20th century

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

Alex Lockridge

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

“Tell Us What You See and Hear”

Austin Carty

Responding

+Hymn 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

If you wish to present yourself for membership today, or if you have another decision to share, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Sabrina Smith

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

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)*

Offertory Anthem

I Hear the Prophet Callin’

by Pepper Choplin

The Sanctuary Choir

Daniel Lowe, soloist

I hear the prophet callin’, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

Come and make straight the way in the desert, a highway for our God.

I hear Isaiah callin’, “Fear not, your God has come.”

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened. The ears of the deaf will hear.

And then the mute will shout for joy. And the desert will be joyful and blossom like a rose.

We shall rejoice with joy and singing and see the glory of God.

I hear the prophet callin’, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

- 21st century

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

Austin Carty and Alex Lockridge

Organ Postlude

Joyous Dialogue

setting by Alice Jordan

*A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell hath brought forth a baby, as it both befell...
Aye and therefore be merry, set sorrow aside, Christ Jesus our Savior was born on this tide.*

+all who are able may stand

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Gayle Majors, Organist

Ann Hacker, Pianist

Mollie Daniel, acolyte

In 1970, American church music composer, Lloyd Pfautsch, wrote *Go and Tell John* in the style of an African American spiritual. Based on Matthew 11:4-6, the anthem answers John the Baptist's question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" It is sung today, as a response to the sermon, by Carolyn Garr, Ed Garr, Mary Ida Gray, Elizabeth Reese, and Paul Sims.

The Advent wreath is given in loving memory of

Felix and Mattie Pace

Leonard and Marie Leake

by

Kevin and Sherry Pace

Daniel, Lindsay, Jackson and Harrison Lowe