

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting Austin Carty

Organ Voluntary *Sing We Now of Christmas* setting by Owen Griffin
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Call to Worship Paul Sims

*Look! A young woman is with child.
He will be called Emmanuel, God with us.
His name will be Jesus, for he comes to save us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

+Hymn 127 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN
stanzas 1 and 2

+Prayer of the Day Austin Carty
*... for we pray in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

+Response MENDELSSOHN
*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*
- Charles Wesley

The Word

Children's Sermon

Lindsay Lowe

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14

Austin Carty

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

+Hymn 119

His Name Is Called Emmanuel

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

A Reading from the Epistles: Colossians 1:15-20

Paul Sims

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn 112

Child in the Manger

BUNESSAN

A Reading from the Gospels: Matthew 1:18-25

Austin Carty

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which, being interpreted, is God with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord

Thanks be to God

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.

Sermon

"God Is with Us"

Austin Carty

Responding

+Hymn 132

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

stanzas 1, 3, and 4

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

J. Bill Sosh

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

Offertory Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

by Craig Courtney

*Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me.
In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed:
A still small Voice to cry one day for me.
How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace – for me.
Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.*

- Jaroslav Vajda

Prayers of the People

Austin Carty

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 Paul Sims

Organ Postlude

Toccata on 'Sing We Now of Christmas'

by Anna Laura Page

+all who are able may stand

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Gayle Majors, Organist Ann Hacker, Pianist

Samuel Garr, clarinet

Jeffery Scott Morton, acolyte

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