

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting

Austin Carty

Voluntary

The Coventry Carol
Tom Blair, cello; Donna Davis, piano

setting by Mark Hayes

Lighting the Candle of Love

Alex Lockridge

*The fourth Advent candle denotes love, not temporary infatuation,
not passing interest, nor polite concern, but love that never fails.*

Here glows a light for love.

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

The circle of God's love includes us.

The compassion of God's love surrounds us.

The depth of God's love changes us.

The demands of God's love motivate us.

The enfleshing of God's love thrills us.

Behold the boundless love of the Lord!

+Hymn 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

stanzas 1 and 2

+Prayer of the Day

Paul Sims

*... 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, 18th century

The Word

Children's Sermon

Alex Lockridge

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

+Hymn 132

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

stanzas 1, 3, and 4

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

Lo, How a Rose

setting by Deborah Govenor

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.

It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,

With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior when half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

True man, yet very God; from sin and death He saves us, and lightens every load.

- German carol, 15th century

Sermon

"He Will Save His People from Their Sins"

Austin Carty

Responding

+Hymn 114

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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

Lindsay Lowe

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

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, 20th 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

+Hymn 143

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

+Commission and Blessing

Austin Carty

Organ Postlude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

setting by John Innes

+all who are able may stand
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Gayle Majors, Organist
Ann Hacker, Pianist

Hannah 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

Worship for Christmas Eve

Saturday Evening at Six O'clock
childcare provided

Worship for Christmas Day

Sunday Morning at Ten-thirty O'clock
childcare provided