



“John the Baptist” by Chuck Hipsher (2020)

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshipping in our sanctuary after a year outside of our building. As we gather this morning know that we are committed to everyone's safety and comfort as we create sacred space and time together.

Things to Know

- Masks are required at all times during worship, when moving through the building, and when with children. Each Sunday school class is making its own decisions regarding masks in class.
- Available pews have cushions in them. Unavailable pews have the cushions removed.
- Please keep social distance by avoiding gathering in groups before and after the service.
- Be mindful of others. Err on the side of caution out of respect for those who are abiding by stricter practices.
- Participate in the service as much or as little as you like. Stand when others stand, or remain seated. Sing when others sing, or enjoy the way this old sanctuary fills with sound. Invitations to stand as you are able are marked with an asterisk (*). Invitations to respond in word or song are noted in bold.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please find an usher.

For Those With Children

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. Parents with infants are more than welcome to remain in the sanctuary, or ushers can direct you down the back stairs to a comfortable room with sound from the sanctuary so all can still hear the service. A nursery is provided for children younger than 3. Preschoolers (age 3-kindergarten) are invited to leave after “Let the Children Come” for our W.O.W. (Working on Worship) experience.

For Those with Special Needs

Thank you for joining us for worship! We love our historic buildings, but know they can be a challenge for those with mobility needs. Know that we are committed to doing all we can to make this space welcoming to everyone. Reserved seating for those in wheel chairs and those sitting with them is found near the elevator, and is marked with signs on the walls and on the back of the pews. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher for assistance. Large print bulletins are available at both entrances. If you have special hearing needs, please ask one of the ushers to bring you a hearing assistance device from the sound booth in the back, or feel free to go back there and get one. An accessible restroom is located up one floor across from the office. If you, or someone with you, requires special assistance for any reason, please find a minister or an usher.

THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour Anne Armstrong

The Call to Worship “Prepare the Way of the Lord” Jacques Berthier

Patrick Johns, acolyte

The Prelude “From Heaven Above” arr. Gordon Young

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Litany FBCX College Students

God of peace, we long for the day when, by your tender mercy, the dawn will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

O Come, O come Emmanuel! Come to your world, which waits for you!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make God’s path straight! Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.

O Come, O come Emmanuel! Come to your world, which waits for you!

We light this candle of peace against a world of violence and injustice. Help us to be people of peace, O God for whom we wait.

O Come, O come Emmanuel! Come to your world, which waits for you!

Luke 1:68-79, Luke 3:1-6

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath FBCX College Students

The Congregational Response 103 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

(refrain)

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*The Hymn of Praise 87

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

*The Invocation

Phoebe Capps

*The Gloria Patri 705

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.**

The Welcome

Kelsey Stillwell

“Let the Children Come”

JD Granade

Children in 3K-K are invited to W.O.W., a preschool worship experience! We will meet with the W.O.W. Shepherds at the end of “Let the Children Come.” Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship. The W.O.W. shepherds this week are Luke McBrayer and Sara Binet

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 95

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley a level road appear!

The hope of every nation, God's promise of salvation.

Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

We wait our Savior's coming, our own eternal King!

Long promised by the prophets, let heaven with praises ring.

Our hope is ever growing, God's peace to all bestowing,

Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

**Come fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!
All lands will bow before Him, their voices join to sing
Of hope and peace abounding, of joy to heaven resounding.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!**

**Christ's is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
His rule secures our freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Hope, peace, and joy our treasure, God's love above all measure.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!**

*The Offertory Prayer

David Cooke
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“What Sweeter Music”
The Chancel Choir

Hal H. Hopson

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day
That sees December turn to May.

Why does this chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven and the underearth.

Robert Herrick, alt. (1591-1674)

*The Offertory Response 131

In the Bleak Midwinter
(stanza 4)

CRANHAM

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him: give Him my heart.**

Christina Rossetti

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Sam Northenor

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scott Dickison

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 trespassed 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 and ever, Amen.

The Solo Anthem

"How Shall We Know Him"

Gilbert Martin

Marie J. Roberts, soprano

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs,
nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by his crown or by his gown.
But his coming known shall be,
by the holy harmony
which his coming makes in thee.

Text: Anon. 15th century

The Second Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

Scott Dickison

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“A Particular Savior”

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 83

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all- sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

* The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Congregational Response

“Alleluia”

traditional chant

The Postlude

“People, Look East”
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. James Mansfield



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, December 5

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm Deacon's meeting

Wednesday, December 8

9:30am Language Ministry
 3:00 pm Open Time in youth room
 and children's center
 4:45 pm Children Worship
 Arts Workshops
 5:30 pm Youth Choir
 5:30 pm Family Dinner
 6:00 pm Children's Choir
 6:15 pm Youth "Unplugged"
 6:30 pm Language Ministry
 6:30 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study
 6:45 pm Flex time for children

Saturday, December 11

5:30 pm Parents' Night Out

Sunday, December 12

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Lessons and Carols
 5:00 pm Youth Christmas Party

Deacons of the Week

December 2 David Cooke
 December 9 Marina Spears

THE RECORD SPEAKS

Date: 10/31/2021
 Budget to Date \$539,568
 Contributions \$445,087
 Expenses \$461,415
 Missions \$44,534
 -\$60,862

Birthdays

December 5 Abby Ingoldsby
 December 6 Jennifer Medgull
 December 6 Choice Watson
 December 7 Martin Jones
 December 9 Leanne Summerlin
 December 10 Brenna Tarpley
 December 11 Penny Snyder
 December 11 Bill Tribble

Condolences

We grieve with William Underwood III and his family in the death of his father **William Underwood, Jr.**

We grieve with the Myrick family in the death of Lesley's father, **Michael Denford**, on November 23.

Save the Date

Wednesday, December 15

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19

Deacons and Church Council Drop-In @ the Dickisons'

Tuesday, December 21

Service for the Longest Night

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, January 9

Women's Book Club

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Roast Pork Loin or Chicken
 Cornbread Dressing and Gravy
 Braised Greens, Mac-n-Cheese, Corny
 Fritters, Peanut Butter Blossom Cookies
 Fresh Fruit Cups.



**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
NURTURE · LOVE · SERVE · ALL

ADVENT 2021

11/21
4:00PM

ADVENT WORKSHOP
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LESSONS AND CAROLS
DURING MORNING WORSHIP

12/12
11:00AM

12/15
6:30PM

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
PROGRAM

SERVICE FOR THE
LONGEST NIGHT

12/21
6:00PM

12/24
5:30PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SUNDAY WORSHIP
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

12/26
11:00AM

ALL EVENTS ARE IN PERSON
SERVICES WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMED

THE FRIDGE DOOR



A place to display the small moments that make up the larger story of the church

What a gift it is to have many talented performers share with us each week in worship. But this isn't a gift we keep to ourselves, and this time of year you can find FBCX represented throughout our community! Today you can hear college students and adults in two choral concerts: The Wesleyannes and Concert Choir at Wesleyan at 4:00 and the Choral Society of Middle GA with the Mercer Choir singing Handel's *Messiah* (directed by our own minister of music) at St. Joseph's Church at 7:30. Theatergoers will catch several youth, adults, and maybe even a pastor in Theatre Macon's *White Christmas* and Macon Little Theatre's *Matilda* in the coming weeks. *Nutcracker* of Middle Georgia, another Christmas season staple, features many of our youth and children for one weekend, December 10-12. You'll even see one of our visual artists' work on display at The Web downtown.

In this busy season, see if you can find some time to not only support your church family, but support local art as well!

NEW DEACONS NOMINATED

The new deacons for 2022 are:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Fred Bongiovanni | Dee Bratcher |
| Richard Green | Mary Leonard |
| Jody Long* | Julie Long* |
| Jennifer Medgull* | Monica Stevens* |
| Eric Spears | |

Jennifer Medgull and Monica Stevens will be serving for the first time and are to be ordained. Jody and Julie will be ordained to mark their new role in our congregation.

DAVID COOKE TO BE NEW CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

David is married to Rebecca Rowell Cooke, and together they have three children, Caroline, Beau, and Maddie. David has been ordained a deacon and is a member of the Kindred Spirits Sunday School class. David has served in numerous capacities at the church, including most recently as a deacon and member of the Personnel Committee. This will be his first time serving as the Chair of Church Council. David is a partner at the law firm of Gautreaux Law, LLC.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM AND DESSERT RECEPTION

Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm

Join us after dinner as the children lead us in a special time of music and reflection for this Advent season. Afterward we'll gather for a simple dessert reception—you're invited to bring a dessert to share.

DEACON AND CHURCH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS DROP IN

Saturday, December 19, 5:30 - 8:00 pm.

The Dickisons, 167 Buford Place.

Indoor/Outdoor

Children welcome!

Book Drive

We are collecting books for our neighbors and we need your help. Everyone who comes to the December Crisis Closet will receive a new book for their children. This went well last year and we are hopeful that this Christmas will be just as meaningful.

We want our selection of books to be inclusive and representative of the folks who come to the crisis closet. We want them to be uplifting and the kinds of books that make you want to read. There are several ways you can help:

1. Buy some NEW books and drop them off at the church. Shop for the age categories of: babies, preschool, early elementary, late elementary, middle and high school. Help us out by marking your books with its age group.
2. Shop on our Amazon Wish List. You can buy them and have them delivered to the church. Search FBCX Christmas Book Wishlist on Amazon. *Please keep delayed delivery times in mind, and order ASAP.

3. Donate money. We will shop for you. Use our online giving platform and select "Book Drive" fund.

We are asking that you purchase new books for children. However, last year we had a few adults interested in books for themselves. We welcome used book donations for adult readers to have on hand for visitors who would like to have one.

Drop off your books in the church office.

Needed: PreK through second grade picture books.

**Books are needed by Sunday,
December 19th.**

CHILDREN

Parent's Night Out

Saturday, December 11, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

We'll take the kids off your hands for the evening! Schedule your Christmas party for this time, use it to catch up on holiday errands, or simply enjoy a free evening! This event is for all children birth-5th grade! Cost is \$10 per child. Use the link in the children's weekly email or Hilites to register.

UPCOMING WORSHIP ARTS:

December 8 and 15: Movement and Drama with Chris Kirby and Monica Stevens

YOUTH

Community Youth Group

Today, 12:30-2:30 at St. Francis Episcopal Church

Gather in the Education Lobby after worship. Carpool to St. Francis or let Kelsey know if you need a ride.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12th

5:00-8:00pm at the Barneses' house

Scavenger hunt, dinner, & gift exchange

*Needed: Drivers for the scavenger hunt

Drive a team of youth around town to compete in a scavenger hunt, 5:00-6:30pm. Ask Kelsey for more information.

Backpack Ministry

Tuesday, December 7th, 5:00-6:00 pm

Forest Hills United Methodist Church

Looking for 3-4 youth or family to pack bags.

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, December 11, 5:30-8:00pm

Youth are needed to help with childcare!

Meet at the church at 5:00 pm. Let JD know if you can be there.





Now. Here. This.

A few years ago when the boys became old enough to participate, we started to keep a more regular practice of lighting an Advent wreath at home--and I say this with all the necessary qualifiers about what “regular” means in our home.

But this has become something we all look forward to in this season, and of course the boys enjoy permission to handle fire, however small (and with adult supervision).

We’ve also done our best to talk through what each of the candles represent, which, as so often happens when teaching children, Audrey and I have found difficult to do.

How does one explain to a child what hope is? Or peace?

What is joy, to a child?

And how can we possibly summarize love?

In a sense, this is an impossible task. But it is one that we attempt all the time as the church, for instance, whenever we talk about God.

God is utterly beyond language, and so whatever words we use to describe God are, at best, symbols--signposts pointing us to God.

Not that the language we use isn’t important, because it absolutely is. Sometimes the language the church has used for God points us in the wrong direction. Other times it can open us up to new roads we never knew were there. If we fall too comfortably into a pattern of using the same language, we run the risk of limiting ourselves from experiencing the fullness of God.

The interstate is efficient, but if that’s all you drive on, how incomplete—deprived, even—would your understanding of this beautiful land be?

When it comes to this kind of holy speech, fullness is approached through practice. Through ritual, through repetition. In a sense, everything we say or do or offer in worship points us to God. And when we do these things week after week, our vision is expanded, slowly.

The same is true for these four themes of Advent. The more we speak of them, and the more language we use when we do, and the more we couple it with reflection and action, the more we round them out in our imaginations.

In our home, hope is “looking forward to something good,” which may be the real magic of this season.

Peace is “when everything is as it should be,” followed by a deep breath (even if just by Audrey and me).

Joy is “when we are soooooo happy,” usually paired with a big bear hug with whomever is closest.

And love is “what makes all these other candles possible,” which we ponder together in silence for a beat.

These aren’t summaries but starting points to a journey we take a few steps down each night around those candles, and a few steps more when we gather with all of you in worship. And every year, without fail and no matter just what “regular” comes to mean, we end up just where we hoped to go.

SHD

Poinsettia Order

Please tear out and return this form with a \$10 check payable to First Baptist Church of Christ. You may also submit an order online using the link found in the High-lites email or at fbcxmacon.org/poinsettias. THEN pay using our online giving portal and selecting seasonal flowers. Deadline to order is Monday, December 6.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In appreciation of: _____

Given by: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ Amount: _____

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table and the ministers' stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival," and the season anticipates the birth of Jesus and the return of Christ in his Second Advent. Purple symbolizes penitence and fasting as well as royalty to welcome the Advent of Christ.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given by the Easons to the glory of God and with grateful hearts for each member of our church family, for those precious to our memories, and for each of you, here and now. We love you.



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• www.fbcxmacon.org • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

STAFF

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