FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST
NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

"Host of Angels," by Mike Moyers

December 26
First Sunday after
Christmas Day

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshiping 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.
- 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

Brenna Tarpley, acolyte

The Prelude — "O Come, All Ye Faithful" — arr. Gordon Young

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship — Kelsey Stillwell

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken,

To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others,

To make music in the heart.

From, "Now the Work of Christmas Begins," by Howard Thurman

*The Hymn of Praise 125 — Angels We Have Heard on High — GLORIA

Joy Dumas, music leader

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,while our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]

*The Invocation — Kelsey Stillwell

*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" Kelsey Stillwell

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 OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 114 TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger:
Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth; wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him:
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger:
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

*The Offertory Prayer Jackie Riley
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory "Silent Night" arr. Neil Harmon
Anne Armstrong, organ

*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 Psalm 148 Jennifer Medgull

Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

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 — The Solo Anthem — "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"
Rachel Green, mezzo soprano — arr. Robert MacGimsey

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little holy child, we didn't know who you were.
Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord; to take our sins away.
Our eyes were blind, we could not see, we didn't know who you were.

Long time ago, You were born, born in a manger low,
Sweet little Jesus boy.
The world treats you mean, Lord, treats me mean too,
But that's how things are down here, we don't know who you are.

You have told us how and we are trying!
Master ,you have shown us how, even when you were dying.
Just seems like we can't do right, look how we treated you.
But please, sir, forgive us Lord, we didn't know it was you.

Sweet little Jesus boy, born a long time ago.
Sweet little holy child, we didn't know who you were.

Text: Robert MacGimsey (1934)

The Second Lesson Luke 2:8-20 Scott Dickison

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon "The Work of Christmas" Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 138 STOWEY

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, oxen or sheep?
May we peek like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

O what can I give to Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I'd bring a lamb;
If i were a wise man I'd do my part;
Yet what can I give to Him? Give Him my heart.

* The Benediction — Scott Dickison

* The Congregational Response 512 "We Go in Peace" — Keith Christopher

We go in peace, we go in love,
We go with grace and mercy from the Lord above
To tell the world this very thing:
That Jesus Christ is Lord and King!

Postlude — "Gloria" — arr. Jason Payne

Anne Armstrong, organ

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, December 26
11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, December 27
Church office closed for Christmas

Tuesday, December 28
Church office closed for Christmas

Wednesday, December 29
Office open regular hours
No Wednesday night activities

Thursday, December 30
Office open regular hours

Friday, December 31
Office open until 1:30pm to receive year-end gifts

Sunday, January 2
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, January 3
Church office closed for New Year's Day

Deacons of the Week

December 23	Jackie Riley
December 30	Don McGouirk

THE RECORD SPEAKS

Date:	11/30/2021
Budget to Date	$553,524
Contributions	$535,865
Expenses	$554,117
Missions	$53,611
	-$25,488

Birthdays

December 27	Shirley Myers
December 28	Barry Johns
December 29	David Davis
December 29	Greta O'Dell
December 29	Scott Walker
December 30	Beau Roberts

Condolences
We grieve with Beth Walker and her family in the death of her brother, **Nelson Rushton** on December 3.

We grieve with the Brock family in the death of Leon's father, **Leon Brock, Sr**, on December 5.

We grieve with the family of **Lillian Rice** in her death on December 10.

Save the Date
Friday, December 31
Last Day to Receive Year-end Gifts

Friday to Sunday, January 14-16
Winter Youth Summit

Sunday, January 23
First Group Spiritual Direction

Sunday, January 30
Deacon Ordination and Installation

THE FRIDGE DOOR

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

Amid the many challenges the church has faced during this season of Covid, an increased need for AV support surely has been one the more demanding. I am grateful for the members of the audio-visual servant team, who have worked so tirelessly to make sure our services are streamed, our Sunday school classes have what they need to stay connected, and that our equipment is taken care of and upgraded when necessary (the new camera looks great!). I've even seen them move a pulpit or two. :) And they do all of it with joy, which may be the best part. Thank you!

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to use paper offering envelopes in 2022, please let the office know. They will be left in the back of the sanctuary for you or other arrangements can be made.

YEAR-END GIFTS TO BE RECEIVED THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

All year-end gifts to the church must be submitted before the end of the day on Friday, December 31. Mailed items must be postmarked by December 31.

- If you choose to give through the church's online giving portal, know that there is often a 1-2 day delay in posting. The church must record gifts based on the day they post, so please give a few days cushion to make sure they can be received this calendar year.
- Gifts can be hand-delivered to the office during business hours, or after hours can be dropped in the mail slot on the double doors that lead into the Fellowship Hall on High Place.

ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

Dot Walker (mother of Scott Walker) will celebrate her one hundredth Birthday on December 29th. The family will hold a small family celebration for her. If you would like to help her celebrate, please send her a birthday card to:

The Oaks
777 Nursing Home Rd
Marshallville, GA 31057-3715

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

All About Love: NEW VISIONS by bell hooks. We will meet at the home of Anita Gustafson, 340 College Street (red door, red mailbox) on January 9, 2022 at 6 pm. We plan to bring snacks and welcome back so many of you who have not been able to attend over these last couple of years. We have missed you and would love to visit together and get your input. PLEASE join us. We, of course, will revisit this plan if needed.

YOUTH

March Mission Madness

CBF Youth Mission Retreat

When: March 18-20

Where: Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Cost: $125 (includes lodging, t-shirt, & 3 meals)

Deadline: Sign up by January 24th with a $25 deposit

Email Kelsey to sign up and pay $25 on our giving portal. Choose "youth trip" fund.

MISSION UPDATE

With our Special Missions Offering we raised $4,600!

Here is how these generous gifts were distributed:

$2,300 to the CBF Offering for Global Missions. This offering supports the long-term presence of CBF field personnel serving in the United States and around the world.

$1,150 designated for Encourager Church connections

$1,150 to the Bailey's Ministry in addition to our encourager church. A portion is going toward a specific need in the prison (read below)

Tina Bailey reached out to partner churches requesting help with a food program in the Bali prison. There is a need for someone to support the program monthly by sponsoring lunches 5 days a week, because their current sponsor has stopped giving. The amount needed is $250 a month, which pays for lunch for 4-5 people five days a week for a month. This meal support lessens the burden of inmates borrowing money they can not pay back, creating another set of issues, and it makes sure they get a decent meal Monday through Friday. As the coordinator of this program continues to look for a new sponsor, we want to help in the meantime. A portion of our giving to the Baileys will go directly toward this need; $500 will cover two months of meals. Because of your generous giving, we are able to respond to this request.

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table and the minister's stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days between Christmas Day and Epiphany. The color white symbolizes purity and hope.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given in loving memory of our parents, Rev. Mack and Veloreese Harper, and in recognition of the 77th anniversary of their wedding on December 23, 1944 by Beverly and Steve Owens and Brenda Harper.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.

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