



Wise Women Also Came © Jan L. Richardson

January 2, 2022
Epiphany Sunday

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.
- 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

Pippa Kirby, acolyte

The Prelude

“From Heaven Above”
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. Gordon Young

The Call to Worship

JD Granade

Arise! Shine! God’s light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Arise! Shine! God’s light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Arise! Shine! Nations shall come to God’s light and kings to the brightness of God’s dawn.

Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

*The Hymn of Praise 158

Jesus Shall Reign
Rachel Green, music leader

DUKE STREET

**Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
Honor and glory to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud “Amen!”**

*The Invocation

JD Granade

*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

Scott Dickison

“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 Doug and Danielle Barnes.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 150 As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Christ whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet, ever seek the mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Don McGouirk
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory

“Who Would Imagine a King”
Monica Stevens-Kirby, mezzo-soprano

Hill/Warren
arr. Bradley Knight
Robert Herrick, alt. (1591-1674)

**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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jillian Dumas

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.
For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,
Thanks be to God.

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 Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Scott Dickison

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

"Which Road?"

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 159

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

**Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of all nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

* 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

"We Three Kings"
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. David Clark Isele



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, January 2

9:30 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service

Monday, January 3

Office closed for New Year's Day

Sunday, January 9

9:30 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
6:00 pm	Women's book club

Deacons of the Week

December 30	Don McGouirk
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THE RECORD SPEAKS

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

Birthdays

January 4	Stanley Roberts
January 5	Matthew Tessororf
January 6	Dixie Gordon

Condolences

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.

We grieve with the family of **Stephanie Keith** in her death.

We grieve with the Macon Korean Baptist Church in the death of their pastor emeritus, Pastor **John Lee**.

Save the Date

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

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.

The decorations around the church were once again incredible. Thank you so much, DeWayne Moore, for blessings us with your talents!

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.

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

GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

First, we all have an inner teacher whose guidance is more reliable than anything we can get from a doctrine, ideology, collective belief system, institution, or leader. Second, we all need other people to invite, amplify, and help us discern the inner teacher's voice. Parker Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*

Lately I've been telling anyone who will listen (and unfortunately lots of people who don't really want to listen) that the most life-giving thing I've done for myself in the past two years has been a spiritual direction group I've been attending with some fellow travelers at a sister congregation across town. Once a month we sit quietly in a circle, holding space for one another as each in turn shares a struggle, a joy, a question, or simply a status update. The group listens closely and offers questions and responses. It's really as simple as that. But there's a kind of magic in being with people whose only focus is trying to listen deeply for the voice of God in my life, who are there to truly see me.

It's a rare gift to offer and to receive such kind attention. Most of us long for that sort of recognition in our friendships, in our Sunday school groups, and in our life partnerships. Spiritual guidance is one way we can clear the space to attend to the inner teacher, the Holy Spirit, the true self.

It's a gift I'd love for us to share at First Baptist. To that end, we are meeting for an introductory session on January 23 from

4-6.

If you are curious about giving spiritual direction a try, I invite you to come!

Meetings monthly, 3rd Sunday 4-6 at FBCX

For more details on format and grounding principles, consult the Parker Palmer book.

Shaun Kell

Notes and Doodles

Signs of the Season

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



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