



Susan Winget, Winget Art Studios, 2021

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Chancel Choir

Stanley L. Roberts, conductor

Anne Armstrong, accompanist

December 11, 2022 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to worship with the First Baptist Church of Christ.

Whatever road has brought you here and wherever you should go once we depart, know that you are welcome in this space fully and completely, and that the image of God we all bear together this hour is more complete because you are here as a part of it.

Things to Know

Masks are now optional on the church campus. We understand there are those within the congregation who will need or want to continue to wear masks, and we will continue to keep masks around the church for those who may want to use them.

Restrooms can be found through the double doors on the side near the elevator, one flight of stairs up or one flight down.

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.

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. 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

Cal Northenor, acolyte

Call to Worship

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”
(At the appointed time, the congregation will sing with the soloist)

Jacques Berthier

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God!**

Prelude

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. Charles Callahan

A Litany of Joy

Gloria Bass, Lindsey Jones, Romelle Jones, and Lynn Scott

God of joy, our souls magnify you, and our spirits rejoice. For you have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servants. You have done great things for us, and holy is your name.

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

Strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees. Then we will leap like deer, and our speechless tongues will sing for joy, like waters breaking forth in the wilderness.

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

We light this candle of joy against a world of sorrow. Help us to be people of joy, O God for whom we wait.

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

Luke 1:46b-55, Isaiah 35:1-10

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gloria Bass, Lindsey Jones, Romelle Jones and Lynn Scott

Carol

“O Come All Ye Faithful”
(The congregation will sing with the choir)

John Francis Wade

Stanza 1

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the King of angels:**

(Refrain)

**O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Stanza 2

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Oh sing all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, all glory in the highest: (Refrain)**

Stanza 3

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)**

Text: Latin Hymn; attr. to John Francis Wade (c. 1743); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1841)

Invocation and Welcome

Scott Dickison

FIRST LESSON

Lesson

Genesis 3:8-13, 17-19

Allie Ford

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Carol

"Once in Royal David's City"

Henry Gauntlett

Kirstine Buchanan, soprano

The Choir will sing stanzas 1-4. The congregation will join to sing on stanzas 5-6.

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly, cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.**

SECOND LESSON

Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-5

Richard Green

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Carol

"O Come, Emmanuel"

Elaine Hagenburg

Juliana Moroz, cello

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here,
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Latin Hymn; trans. John Mason Neal (1851) and Henry Sloane Coffin (1916)

THIRD LESSON

Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Don McGouirk

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

"Before the Marvel of This Night"

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow,
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease.
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace
Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made,
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss.
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss.
The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the love-less world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above.
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008)

FOURTH LESSON

Lesson

Luke 1:26-33

Harold Tessendorf

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

*Offertory Carol

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

traditional English carol

*(Children in 3K-K are invited to exit during the singing of this carol to attend W.O.W., a preschool worship experience!
Pick up your children there after worship. The W.O.W. shepherds this week are Lesley and Nate Myrick.)*

Stanza 1: (All)

**God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior
Was born upon Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:**

(Refrain)

**O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

Stanza 2: (All)

**From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name: (Refrain)**

Stanza 3: (Men)

**The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed babe to find: (Refrain)**

Stanza 4: (Ladies and Trebles)

**But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray: (Refrain)**

Stanza 5: (All)

**Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface: (Refrain)**

Offertory Prayer

Ruth Hunt
Deacon of the Week

Carol

"Magnificat" Collegium Regale

Herbert Howells

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden,
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is His name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations.

He hath shown strength with His arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen His servant Israel:
As He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and His seed, forever.
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.

Text: Luke 1:46-55

FIFTH LESSON

Lesson

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Maddie Cooke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

Carol

“Before the Paling of the Stars”

John Boda

Before the paling of the stars, before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cockcrow, Jesus Christ was born:

Jesus on his mother’s breast in the stable cold,
Spotless lamb of God was he, shepherd of the fold:

Let us kneel with Mary maid, with Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass, to hail the King of Glory.

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

SIXTH LESSON

Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Billy 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!”

While by the sheep we watched at night,
 glad tidings brought an angel bright.
 How great our joy! How great our joy!

There shall be born, so He did say,
 in Bethlehem a Child today.
 How great our joy! How great our joy!

There shall the Child lie in a stall,
 This Child who shall redeem us all.
 This gift of God we'll cherish well,

That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
 Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
 How great our joy! How great our joy!

Text: Nahum Tate (1700)

SEVENTH LESSON

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.

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem;
 Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
 Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright
 In the sky this Christmas Night!
 Follow me joyfully;

Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
 Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
 Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
 "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

Let us pay our homage at the manger,
 Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
 Christ is come, bringing promises of salvation;
 Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Text: John Rutter

*Carol

“The First Nowell”

traditional English carol

(The congregation will sing with the choir)

Stanza 1 (ALL)

**The first Nowell the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

Stanza 2 (All Ladies)

**For all to see there was a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

Stanza 3 (All Men)

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

Stanza 4 (ALL)

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heav’n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

EIGHTH LESSON

Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Dee Bratcher

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.

Carol:

“We Three Kings”

arr. Craig Courtney

(The congregation will join to sing with the choir on the refrain.)

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

NINTH LESSON

Lesson

John 1:1-14

Kelsey Stillwell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol

“Light of Light”

traditional French carol, 17th century
arr. Gwyneth Walker

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th Century,
tr. from Greek, Gerard Moultrie, 1864

A Call to Response

Scott Dickison

*Carol

“Hark! the Herald-Angels sSng”
(The congregation will sing with the choir)

Felix Mendelssohn

**Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With th' angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the newborn King.
Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, off-spring of the virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th' Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the newborn King.**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the newborn King.**

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

Congregational Response:

“Alleluia”

traditional chant

Postlude

”O Come, All Ye Faithful”

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

Anne Armstrong, organ

WORSHIP NOTES

This *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* has been adapted from the traditional “Service of Lessons and Carols” held each year at King’s College, Cambridge University. This service, itself an adaptation of a service instituted by Archbishop Benson at Truro Cathedral, was first presented on Christmas Eve, 1919, in King’s College Chapel, and continues as a much-celebrated annual tradition.

Guest Musicians

Evelyn Hufstetler, trumpet

Dannie Smith, horn

Walker West, trombone

Michael Bloom, tuba

Juliana Moroz, cello



Our Life Together

Sunday, December 11

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Lessons and Carols
 1:00 pm Intown neighborhood Christmas
 Tour of Homes

Monday, December 12

9:00 am Circle of Hope

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 am Language Ministry
 5:30 pm Family Dinner
 6:00 pm Church Conference
 Advent workshop
 6:45 pm Caroling

Friday, December 16

5:00 pm Youth Christmas party

Sunday, December 18

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship

Deacon of the Week

December 8 Ruth Hunt
 December 15 Laura Lease

Birthdays

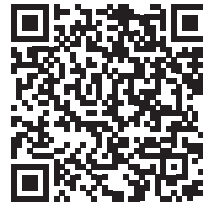
December 11 Penny Snyder
 Bill Tribble
 December 13 Doug Barnes
 Mary Sims
 December 14 Harper Brown
 Emily Kell
 Steve Owens
 Zoe Potts
 Patsy Seymour
 December 15 Mary Tribble
 December 17 Marie Roberts
 December 18 Jane Hardy
 Andrea Stinson

The Record Speaks

Date: 11/05/22
 Budget to Date: \$547,105
 Receipts (Offering): \$472,220
 Receipts (Endowments): \$59,180
 Expenses: \$522,007
 Missions: \$34,542
 YTD Loss (\$25,149)

Wednesday Night Supper

Scan this QR code to make a reservation for Wednesday night supper by this afternoon. You can pay by using the church's giving app or by check or cash on Wednesday night. Menu for this week is breakfast by Dexter.



Save the Date

December 21: Service for the Longest Night

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WOW Location Change

WOW is moving locations and will meet in the area outside the children's Sunday school classrooms. Caretakers will pick up children there after worship.

Christmas Toy Shop

Monday, December 19th

9:00 am—11:00 am

We will host a toy shop for members of the community who attend our Crisis Closet. The hope is that parents can maintain dignity by purchasing toys for their children and can take pride in providing for their families. Donations are collected and sold in the Toy Shop at a deeply discounted price.

How you can help: Help us stock the toy shop! We need toy donations for babies through teenagers. Drop off the toys in the church office with the receipt attached or order from Amazon and have them delivered to the church.

Volunteers are needed on the day of the sale to help with set up, snacks, gift wrapping, and more. Volunteers can also help with sorting and pricing the week before.

Dates:

Sunday, December 11: Final day to drop off toys

Monday, December 12: Circle of Hope,
 sorting and pricing

Monday, December 19: Toy Sale

Holiday Sunday School Schedule

There will be no children's or youth Sunday school classes on December 25th or January 1st.

End of the Year Church Conference

Wednesday, December 14, 6pm

We will gather one final time for this calendar year in conference to hear the reports of the Nominating Committee and Deacon Selection Committee. The presented 2023 class of deacons is as follows:

Amy Alderman
Douglas Barnes
Fay Boie
Sandé Day
Hunter Godsey
David Johansen
Mary Jane Johnson
Suzy McCullough
Jonathan Simpson

Advent Workshop and Caroling

Wednesday, December 14

Join us this Wednesday in the fellowship hall for supper at 5:30pm, followed by an evening of Advent and Christmas crafts and activities. (We'll pause for a few minutes for a very brief church conference!). Those who would like will go caroling around 6:45pm.

Service for the Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21, 6pm

Join us for this contemplative, candlelit service in which we hold special space for the tenderness of the season.

Holiday Gratitude

Church is a work of the people, a truth and testimony that is on particular display during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

While it is always risky to lift up individual folks for their service, knowing that the ministry of the church week in and week out depends on the gifts of so many individuals, we nonetheless want to recognize those who have helped beautify our church and provide hospitality during the holidays.

Church Decorations

DeWayne Moore for decorating the sanctuary and church facade, and the artistic vision for all our decorations.

Shirley and Kathy Myers for their generous gift of our beautiful new Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

David Day, Craig Fluke, and David Nicholson for hanging the decorations and lights in the front of the church.

Mary Leonard for tending to our Advent wreath and the Tucker family for their generous support to have it refinished.

Frank Broome for his carpentry skills in making a new platform for our tree and Advent wreath.

Hospitality

Emily Kell and Danielle Barnes for organizing our inclusion on the Intown Macon Tour of Homes. Sonya Milam, Suzy McCullough, Kay Gatins, Fay Boie, Harriet Eason, Kelsey Stillwell, Kathryn Scoggins, Connie Jones, Kerri Thompson, Steve Wallace, Donyale Leslie, Mary Leonard, and Tony Kight for serving as docents.

Audio Visual

Hall Collier, Joshua Graham, Joe Johnson, Richard Green, John Patillo, and John Brainard for their tireless efforts to run AV for so many special services over this season.

Everything Else

A special thank you to Connie Pursiful in the church office for all her tireless work coordinating, formatting, printing, mailing, and all the many tasks she covers throughout the year that are amplified in this season. We literally couldn't do it without you!

YOUTH

Youth Christmas Party

Friday, December 16 5:00-9:00 pm

Get ready for the annual 'Amazing Youth Christmas Race' of 2022! We will meet in the FBCX parking lot to start the race and will end with dinner and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a \$10 or under wrapped gift.

Needed: Drivers for the amazing race, 5:00- 7:30. You will drive a team of youth around town to complete challenges. Contact Kelsey if you're interested.

POINSETTIAS

In Memory of:

Ruth Bales
Jerry Wayne Bass
Fred's Parents, Fred and Betty-June Bongiovanni
Dee's Parents, Richard and Margaret Bratcher, and Brother Dicky
Doris D. Dellinger
Michael Denford
Harry, Blanche Burkett and Leann Fowler
Pete Cronis Manis
Albert and Frances McCowen
John and Michael McCullough
Roy and Marion O'Neal and David Bailey
Robert L. Day and Patty Day Pirkle
Lillian T. Rice
Bill Tribble
Heinz Peter Treiber
Marcelle White
Mike and Kitty Wilson

Given by:

Troy, Amy, Brenna, and Jennings Tarpley
Gloria, Dwayne, and Robyn Bass
The Bongiovannis
The Bongiovannis
Jill Rice Hanke and Jan Rice Kunzelmann
Nate, Lesley, Ford, and Hasley Myrick
Fay Burkett Boie and family
Fred and Kathy Findley
Suzy McCullough
Suzy McCullough
Al and Sharon Bailey
Sandé and David Day
Jill Rice Hanke and Jan Rice Kunzelmann
Mary Tribble
Jennifer and Peter Treiber
Troy, Amy, Brenna, and Jennings Tarpley
Sandé and David Day

In Honor of:

Lou Bailey
Pastor Scott Dickison
Rev. Scott Dickison
Shannon Hart
Adam Lease
Jonathan Lease
Joyce Spence
Daughters Gena Tribble and Jennifer Treiber

Given by

Al and Sharon Bailey
Gloria, Dwayne, and Robyn Bass
Angie and Dennis Dumsha
Charles and Pat Schaible
Camille Kittrell
Camille Kittrell
The Barnes Family
Mary Tribble



Now. Here. This.

I am a better pastor, father, husband, and person because of you. I'm grateful for this opportunity to look back on ten years together, and look ahead for more years to come.

Scott

This past Sunday was, in a word, overwhelming.

To all the many people who had a hand in bringing together the celebration of my 10th anniversary, please know how grateful I am.

Anita Gusfason and the personnel committee, Jackie Riley and all those in the kitchen. DeWayne Moore for the beautiful decorations. And those who completely blindsided me with their moving words: Doug Thompson, Harold Tessendorf, Doug Barnes, Jonathan Simpson, and Kelly Whiddon. Those were moments I will never forget, and will surely draw upon for years to come.

But perhaps most of all, I want to thank all of you, the people of this church. Pastoral anniversaries are really celebrations for the whole church, because longevity in ministry is always more a product of the congregations we serve than any special gifts or abilities we possess.

First Baptist has been a special place for generations of pastors, and I am grateful, even now, to have been invited to be a part of it. Every kind word that was said about me Sunday could truly be said about our church as a whole, because when I look back on these past ten years it is the ways we have taken seriously our collective life and witness that I am most in awe of.

We have felt this as a family. You drove four hours each way to attend my father's memorial service. You have welcomed three new Dickisons into the world. You were there when we called at 2 am to head to the hospital for a birth. You've advised us on whether an ER visit is warranted (it's happened a lot!). You've been close when we needed support, and gave us space to simply be a family, without expectation or judgment. It has all been a gift.

I also want to thank our current staff, and all those I have had the pleasure to serve on staff with over the past ten years. Ministry aside, this is a special place to work, with wonderful coworkers and a culture of trust, appreciation, and support that is unique, and not just for churches.

So, thank you, First Baptist. For all the ways you have nurtured me, encouraged me to grow, endured my mistakes, cared for my family, and simply been church for me, which is a rare thing for pastors.

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 the King.



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ORGANIST

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Scott Dickison
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Harriet Eason
CHAIR OF DEACONS

Allie Ford
MINISTRY INTERN

Tierra Johnson
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Bradley Lott
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Dr. Stanley L. Roberts
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Kelsey Stillwell
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR
YOUTH AND MISSIONS

Eric Spears
VICE CHAIR OF DEACONS