



And None
Shall be
Afraid

Our Worship of God

December 24, 2017

9:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

∞ And None Shall Be Afraid ∞

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Call to Worship (responsive)

If our lives are dry and parched,

**Lord, send the living waters of your Spirit
to revive us, to enliven us, to bring forth new life.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

If our times are empty and unfulfilled,

**Lord, fill us with your abundance,
and teach us to share generously with others.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

If our bodies are weary and heavy laden,

**Lord, fill us with laughter;
give us shouts of joy; envelop us with your gladness.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

If our lives are small and trivial,

**Lord, make us see great things;
enlarge our vision; widen our borders.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

†Opening Song

Noel

Song of Love

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent (responsive)

Dennis & Denise Ferguson

Joy. Joy nonetheless.

Joy despite.

Joy regardless.

Joy still.

Joy where there was no joy.

Joy amid what threatens joy.

Joy with those who feed our joy.

Joy beyond what we had hoped.

Joy that draws us past our limits.

Joy that defies expectations.

Joy that questions what we have known.

Joy that makes a way where there is none.

Joy that takes us past our fear.

Joy that calls us into life.

Joy that holds us beyond death.

Joy that blesses those to come.

Song of Love

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

Celebration of Joy

Brittany McDonald Null

†Songs of Praise

Glory (Let There Be Peace)
Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Breath Prayer (based on Psalm 118:6)

The Lord is for me; I won't be afraid.

Gospel Reading

Richard Hayden

Luke 2:8-20

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**God of joy and possibility, we offer these gifts
so that they may be transformed into your
good news for a sake of the world. Amen.**

Offering

The Night Before Christmas

Message

From Fear to Joy

Carol McEntyre

†Passing the Joy of Christ

I invite you to pass the joy of Christ with your neighbors,
for as we connect with one another, joy grows.

†Song of Response

O Holy Night

†Benediction (responsive)

God go before you to lead you,
God go behind you to protect you,
God go beneath you to support you,
God go beside you to befriend you.

Do not be afraid.

May the blessing of God the Creator, Son,
and Holy Spirit be upon you.

Go in peace and love and serve the Lord.

Amen.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 24

11 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Office closed; no activities scheduled
Senior Yoga resumes January 8

Tuesday, December 26

Office closed; no activities scheduled

Wednesday, December 27

No rehearsals scheduled

Thursday, December 28

6:30-7:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 31

9:15 am Awakening Worship Service
10:15 am Small Group Hour
11:15 am Traditional Worship Service

*Fellowship Hall
Various Classrooms
Sanctuary*

Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship

Tonight at 11 pm, we will gather again in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve candlelight service. We celebrate the coming of Christ with the singing of carols, the telling of the Christmas story, and the tradition of sharing the light with candles to the strains of "Silent Night." The service is a wonderful "homecoming" for all. It's also the easiest time to invite others to worship with you, so bring family and friends to join us in worship!

Dreaming Together in 2018

Sunday, January 7 and 14, 10:15 am: Community Leader Forum: During the Sunday Morning Small Group Hour, we will hear from different community leaders about Columbia from their perspective. It is an opportunity to learn more about the community we are called to serve in! Come hear from Columbia leaders including Jim Spain, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at MU, and Stephanie Browning, Director of Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services.

Sunday, January 28, 9:15 am: Combined Worship & Ministry Review: We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast and a ministry review. This will be an opportunity to learn about all the different ministries and to reflect on them. To ask questions like: what in congregational life is working well? What needs improvement? If we were going to drop something, what would it be?

Saturday, February 3, 9:00 am: Visioning Listening Session: Dr. Chris Gambill will lead us in a time of reflection on our past. This will be opportunity for you to share what the church means to you and when we have been at our best.

Sunday, February 4, 9:15 am: Combined Worship & Visioning Listening Session: We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast and a visioning session led by Dr. Chris Gambill in which we will reflect on the gifts God has given us and how we might use them in unique ways for ministry.

Critical Conversations in Troubled Times

Beginning in January, First Baptist will be partnering with Second Missionary Baptist Church and Broadway Christian Church to participate in a conversation about racism and how faith communities can help bring about grassroots change. The kickoff will be a potluck dinner on January 14 at 4:30 at Second Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia. The meat will be provided. You are invited to bring a dish of food to share.

The conversation will revolve around reading and discussing “America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America” by Jim Wallis. We will meet monthly on a Sunday evening to talk about the book and learn from one another. The books are being provided by a grant, which Broadway received. To get your free book and join the conversation, RSVP to Janet Deneke at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org.

Church Business Meeting

A business meeting will be held on January 21 at 10:15 (during the Small Group hour) to discuss and approve the budget and the nomination of church leadership for 2018.

First Kids Music

First Kids Music is on a well-deserved break, and will next meet on Sunday, January 14 at 4 pm to begin preparing to sing in combined worship February 4, and during Easter worship on April 1.

Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University will be offered on Wednesday evenings, January 10 through March 7, 2018 from 6-7:30 pm in the conference room. Amanda Jacobs will facilitate the class, which is based on videos and reading materials by Dave Ramsey. You can save \$20 on registration by visiting <https://fpu.com/1053453>.

Finish 2017 Pledges

To complete your 2017 giving before the year ends, please have your gifts to the church office by noon on Friday, December 29 to allow time to make the bank deposit.

Worship Notes

Noel by Chris Tomlin & Lauren Daigle (7050419)

When God Is a Child WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

The Advent candle lighting reading is adapted from a liturgy by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on **The Painted Prayerbook**. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>.

Glory (Let There Be Peace) by Matt Maher (7071972)

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy) by G.F. Handel | Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Matt Gilder (5607039)

The Night Before Christmas by Brandon Heath

O Holy Night by Adolphe Charles Adam | Placide Cappeau | John Sullivan Dwight

The Benediction was written by Cornelius “Neal” Plantinga Jr., president emeritus of Calvin Theological Seminary.

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Thank you for worshiping with us today! If you wish to share this worship experience with a neighbor, the service is broadcast live, and the sermon is available on our website within a week.



9:15 am Awakening Worship Service

For those who may prefer a more traditional worship experience, First Baptist Church offers Traditional Worship at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Sanctuary.

For Children During Worship:

1st- 5th Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

Children (Birth-Kindergarten) can be dropped off in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, prior to worship where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups which dive into various topics (visitors and guests welcomed):

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Discussion Class in the parlor on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2nd floor library.

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Church Staff

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor † *Ed Rollins*, Associate Pastor

Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident

Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry

Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist

Jess Wolfe, Child Development Center Director

Janet Deneke, Admin. Assistant † *Brenda Rice*, Project Coordinator

Bethany James, Nursery Director † *Jason Bell*, Custodian