IIIOSE NO SOW JOY Sunday in Advent

Our Worship of God

December 13, 2020

11:15 am

~ Third Sunday of Advent ~

Pre-Service Music

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Evanovich

Welcome

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Your song is joy, Singer of Creation, for you are Joy—joy that fills the empty with good things;

joy that sings light into the darkness;

joy that echoes with angelic song;

joy that births hope in the midst of despair.

Today, we come, echoing Mary's song,

which bursts from within us,

proclaiming your faithfulness,

from generation to generation.

Open our lips to sing your praise

and receive your melody in our lives.

We are ready for your coming,

the coming of Jov. Amen.

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant Light: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the great Desire of Nations, Ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Though an infant now we view him He will share his Father's throne, Gather all the nations to him; Every knee shall then bow down. Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King. We invite you to light the candle of joy in your home as the DeGraff's light the candle in theirs.

Children's Time

Pastor Brittany McDonald Null

Song

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Joy unspeakable joy An overflowing well No tongue can tell Joy unspeakable joy It rises in my soul Never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders wonders of His love

Joy unspeakable joy An overflowing well No tongue can tell Joy unspeakable joy It rises in my soul Never lets me go

Prayer for Illumination (responsive)

Pastor Michael McEntyre

Creator God,

Scripture is flooded with dream-like images:

the lion lying down with the lamb,

justice rolling like a mighty river,

swords being beaten into plowshares,

the prisoner being set free,

good news to the oppressed,

the whole world rejoicing.

To our human ears, there are times when these words can sound like nothing more than a far-off dream—

downplaying prophecy to fantasy.

However, what we know is that to dream is to hope,

and to hope is to imagine,

and to imagine is to wonder,

and to wonder is to believe,

and to believe is to live and breathe for your promised day.

So give us the strength to listen as we dream, O God.

For deep down, we know your words are the very thing we need.

Amen.

Gospel Reading Beth Marchbanks

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

Sharing Our Gifts

Song Be Born in Me

Everything inside me cries for order
Everything inside me wants to hide
Is this shadow an angel or a warrior
If God is pleased with me why am I so terrified
Someone tell me I am only dreaming
Somehow help me see with Heaven's eyes
And before my head agrees my heart is on its knees
Holy is He
Blessed am I

Be born in me
Be born in me
Trembling heart somehow I believe
That You chose me
I'll hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle
Make my heart Your Bethlehem
Be born in me

All this time we've waited for the promise All this time You've waited for my arms Did You wrap Yourself inside the unexpected So we might know that love would go that far

Be born in me
Be born in me
Trembling heart somehow I believe
That You chose me
I'll hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle
Make my heart Your Bethlehem
Be born in me

I am not brave I'll never be
The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy
I'm just a girl nothing more
But I am willing I am Yours

Be born in me
Be born in me
I'll hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle
Make my heart Your Bethlehem
Be born in me

Message

Those Who Dream Sow Joy

Carol McEntyre

Hymn of Response 156

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 every 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!

Life of the Church

Benediction

As we go, may we follow Mary's lead and allow our souls to sing.

May we believe that the appropriate reaction to God's goodness is complete gratitude, which looks like love for our neighbor, justice for the poor, food for the hungry, and joy that overflows.

And even though we do not always believe in ourselves, we believe that our song is pleasing to you.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

May it be so. Amen.

Worship Notes

Opening Prayer, This is an excerpt from *Worship at Home Advent & Christmas 2020*. Copyright © 2020 Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu.

Angels from the Realms of Glory, Words: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825, alt. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867.

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy), CCLI Song # 5607039, Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts | Matt Gilder

Be Born in Me, CCLI Song # 6195667 Bernie Herms | Nichole Nordeman

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child, Words: Joseph S. Cook, 1919. Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582; arr. Ernest Macmillan, 1930.

Other Litanies from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Week at a Glance

Monday, December 14

6:00 pm Serving Team (Missions) zoom meeting

Tuesday, December 15

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

Wednesday, December 16

12:00 pm Zoom at Noon with Pastor Carol

6:30 pm Handbells Rehearsal

7:45 pm Chancel Choir Zoom Rehearsal

Friday, December 18

12:15 pm Jesus Calling: Women's Devotional and Prayer Time via Zoom 6:00 pm Blue Christmas Zoom Worship Service

Sunday, December 20

10:15 am Sunday Morning Bible Study and Small Groups
Online Zoom Churchwide Bible Study

10:30 am Student Ministry Group online

11:15 Online Worship Service

Announcements

Visitors and Prayer Requests

If you are visiting with us online, we are so glad to have you with us! If you would like to receive more information about First Baptist and our ministries, let us know you are with us today by texting "guest" to 573-326-9490. If you are in need of prayer, text "prayer" to 573-326-9490 and Brittany, our Pastor of Families and Spiritual Formation will connect with you.

Pledge Drive

It's not too late to turn in a pledge card! You can go to our website at fbc-columbia.org for an online pledge card. Click on the link at the top of the page that says "Online Pledge Card 2021."

Blue Christmas Service – Next Friday at 6:30 pm via Zoom

In a normal year, Christmas can be a painful time. The anguish of broken relationships, the first Christmas without a loved one or the weariness of ill health can make us feel alone in the midst of celebration. This year, we have the added grief of over 270,000 Americans and 1.5 million people worldwide who have died from COVID-19.

Due to the Pandemic, we may not celebrate with extended family in the same way. Though the Christmas season is often marked with expressions of excitement and joy, we want to recognize that for many, this season evokes a lot of pain and grief, particularly this year. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and lament; we need to know and see that we are not alone and hold space for healing and hope. For these reasons, we are offering a special Blue Christmas service on Friday, December 18 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Join us in sharing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledges God's presence is with those who mourn, now and always.

Unwrapping Advent: Counting Down to Christmas Book by Book

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation. Every evening at 6 pm throughout the season of Advent, Pastor Brittany will unwrap a book to read as we await the coming of Christ. The videos will be released on our private Facebook group and remain available until Epiphany. Some of these books will center around the Advent values of hope, peace, joy, and love, while others of these books will just be silly holiday books. We look forward to virtually gathering around the Christmas tree as we unwrap the gifts of Advent.

Traveling Gratitude Café

The season of Gratitude is not over! Pastor Brittany has added dates to the signup and hopes to keep the cafe traveling all December long! And the news keeps getting better, the cafe's age limitations have been removed, and is open to all.

Simply email Brittany for a link, then signup for a spot and indicate if you would prefer hot chocolate, apple cider, or tea. Be prepared to bundle up and social distance as we continue to practice gratitude throughout December.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:00 pm on the Front Lawn

The Christmas Eve Worship is one of the most beloved services of our church year. The service includes beautiful music, a reading of the Christmas story from scripture and a candlelight benediction as we sing silent night. This year, we wanted to continue these beloved traditions and meet in person, in the safest way possible, for this sacred gathering. Therefore, on December 24, bundle up and join us on the front lawn at 5:00 pm for Christmas Eve Worship. The length of the service will vary depending on the weather, but we look forward to continuing our tradition of worshipping together on Christmas Eve.

In addition, a recorded service will be broadcasted on our streaming platforms.

Annual Business Meeting - January 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting on January 24 at 1:00 pm via Zoom following the Sunday Online Service. If you'd like to visit with other members, we will begin the Zoom meeting 15 minutes early!

Financial Assistance for Those Affected by COVID-19

If you have found yourself in need of financial assistance in this disruptive time of a global pandemic, please reach out to any of our pastors (by phone or email) to notify us of your need. Please know that all such requests are confidential. We will get through this together!

Winter Bible Study

In January, we invite you to join us for Winter Bible Study via Zoom! This 6-week course is designed for people who want to dig deeper in their Bible study and grow in their understanding of scripture. Dr. Hulitt Gloer will be leading the course entitled "Reading Mark's Revolutionary Gospel." Knowing what Jesus said and did has never been more important than in the days in which we are now living. The Gospel of Mark tells of Jesus' revolutionary life and message and we will examine it together. The class is perfect for laity who want to study the Bible at a more scholarly level, but you do not have to be a scholar to join. The course is designed for any and all who desire a greater understanding of the Bible. The only prerequisite is a love for the Bible.

Dr. Hulitt Gloer is Emeritus Professor of Preaching and Christian Scriptures at Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University and taught at Truett when Pastors Michael and Carol McEntyre were students there.

You have the opportunity to let us know if you are interested in participating in Winter Bible Study and to weigh in on what day and time it will be held by taking a short survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYFL8PR

January Worship Series - Jesus, Why So Mysterious?

Throughout the gospels, Jesus is often secretive about his identity. Like in Mark chapter 8 when Jesus, "sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone about him." What benefit could come from Jesus's hiddenness? He often answers questions with questions and uses metaphors and parables to teach. Why risk being misunderstood? If the message is so important, why give it in a veiled way? In January, we will begin a sermon series called Jesus, Why So Mysterious? Join us for worship, as we explore the launch of Jesus' public ministry and wonder why he was at times so secretive about his identity.