



THOSE
WHO *are*
not alone
DREAM
4TH sunday in advent

Our Worship of God

December 20, 2020

11:15 am

~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~

Pre-Service Music

A Piano Christmas at the Movies
from “White Christmas “ –“White Christmas” and
“Count your Blessings” by Irving Berlin.
from “Polar Express” –“Believe” by Ballard and Silvestri.
Colleen Ostercamp, *piano*

Welcome

Shelby Myers

Call to Worship (responsive)

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts

the coming of Christ, love incarnate,

a declaration that those who dream are not alone.

Song of Praise

Glory in the Highest

*Hear the quiet of the starry night
Scattered shepherds watch the sky
Suddenly the dark gives way to light
The angel speaks of the Messiah*

*Be of good courage
See the star hovering above
Today a Savior is born to us*

*Glory glory in the highest
We sing glory to His name
Peace on Earth to all who come
To worship Christ the King
We sing glory (in the highest)*

*See the God who spoke the earth to be
Take a breath as a baby
Look beyond the child and see the King
Come to rescue and redeem*

*Glory glory in the highest
We sing glory to His name
Peace on Earth to all who come
To worship Christ the King
We sing glory (in the highest)*

*Gloria gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria gloria in excelsis Deo
Glory glory in the highest
We sing glory to His name
Peace on Earth to all who come
To worship Christ the King
We sing glory (in the highest)
Glory glory in the highest
We sing glory to His name
Peace on Earth to all who come
To worship Christ the King
We sing glory (in the highest)*

*Glory in the highest
In the highest*

Lighting the Candle of Love

Mark & Paula Thomas

*We invite you to light the candle of love in your home
as the Thomases light the candle in theirs.*

Children's Time

Advent Value of Love

Lillian Hoell

Special Music

Angels We Have Heard on High
Judy Elliott and Maria Trevor, *harp*

Scripture Reading

Lexie Kieffer

Luke 1:26-45

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." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

Song

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

*Awake! awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavn'ly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*In deepest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the silent join in song, the tired shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story,
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.*

Visio Divina – Image by Lisle Gywnn Garrity

Sharing Our Gifts

Hymn 163

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Lo! how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas fortold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

*This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.*

Message

Brittany McDonald Null

Those Who Dream Are Not Alone

Affirmation of Faith (responsive)

We believe that this world is hard—

Harder than it has to be.

When the world falls apart around us,

We believe in listening for the angels that say, “Do not be afraid,”

And in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—

Those who laugh with joy at our arrival

And throw open the doors to their homes.

We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing,

Through the laughter of cousins,

The joy shared between siblings,

And the home found in partnership.

Therefore, we believe in church families,

In chosen families,

And in the love that extends beyond family.

We believe in friendships,

In neighbors,

And in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.

We believe in the Triune God—

Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—

Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.

We believe that that same belovedness exists for us.

We believe that we are loved and claimed,

Never alone.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

Song of Response

Noel

*Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore
Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel*

*Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore*

*Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel
Noel Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel*

Life of the Church

Benediction (responsive)

As you go, may the triune God –
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself –
Go with you, reminding you that
Those who dream are never alone.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Colleen Ostercamp, *organ*

arr. P. Laubengayer

Worship Notes

Call to Worship, — Rev. Nancy J, on her blog, wonderings through life and other such nonsense. <http://ruminari.wordpress.com/>

Glory in the Highest, CCLI Song # 7096086, Jacob Sooter | Matt Papa

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Words: German Carol. Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599. Harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Noel, CCLI Song # 7050419, Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Matt Redman

A Dream Confirmed, by artist Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Other Litanies froml A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Songs printed in bulletin by permission, CCLI #1515189 & OneLicense.net #A-707314.

Week at a Glance

Tuesday, December 22

1:00 pm Crafty Critters Zoom Call

Wednesday, December 23

12:00 pm NO Zoom at Noon this week

6:30 pm NO Handbells Rehearsal this week

7:45 pm NO Chancel Choir Zoom Rehearsal this week

Thursday, December 24

Offices Closed for Christmas holiday

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Online and on the front lawn

Friday, December 25

Offices Closed for Christmas holiday

Sunday, December 27

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

Monday, December 28

Offices Closed for Christmas holiday

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.”

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Two Services:

5:00 pm In-person on the Front Lawn and also Online

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. The online service will be pre-recorded and streamed on Vimeo, YouTube, and Facebook at 5:00 pm as well.

Christmas Eve - Silent Night Community Video

Christmas Eve is always a holy time in our community. Energy and anticipation fills the air as we announce the coming of the Christ child, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Perhaps the most sacred moment is when, we a gathered community surround the sanctuary and sing Silent Night.

This year, while many of us will gather on the front lawn, we know it will not quite be the same. So, our worship team, wanted to release a video with your help! Send Pastor Brittany a video of you saying one of the lines from the hymn, by Tuesday, December 22, bonus points if you are holding a candle while you do it! Then on Christmas Eve, watch as our voices come together in a new, but beautiful way!

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.

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.

The study will be held on Zoom on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. It will begin January 17 and run for 6 weeks. Contact the church office to register. Phone: 573-442-1149. Email: churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

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.