

## WELCOME TO FIRST BAPTIST

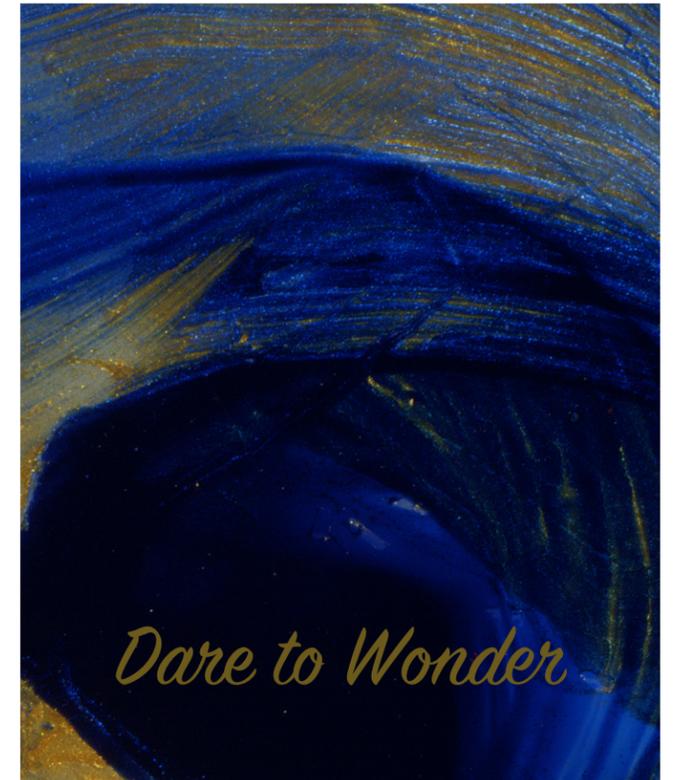
We are so glad you decided to worship with us today. Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor's Card in the pew rack in front of you. You can place these in the offering plate during the offertory. Consider lingering after worship so that our members might have a chance to greet you. Our ministers will be in the Welcome Center after worship and would love to meet you.

## A WORD ABOUT FBC

First Baptist Memphis is a Midtown congregation that seeks to follow Christ by practicing hospitality, community, dialogue, and service.

- We value diversity in our membership and believe it enriches our journey and ministry.
- We strive to be a family of faith where all can belong.
- We value the voice of every child of God and strive to hear the voice of God in one another.
- What we do inside our walls prepares us to share God's love across the street and around the world.

The Radio Bible Class (10:30 am) and this service (11:00 am) are broadcast live on radio stations ESPN 680 AM, and ESPN 92.9 FM. Sermons are available online at [www.fbcmemphis.org](http://www.fbcmemphis.org).



## Christmas Eve

**December 24, 2018**

*God will enter into your night,  
as the ray of sun enters  
into the dark, hard earth,  
driving right down  
to the roots of the tree,  
and there, unseen, unknown  
unfelt in the darkness,  
filling the tree with life,  
a sap of fire  
will suddenly break out,  
high above the darkness,  
into living leaf and flame.*

—Caryll Houselander



Rev. David Breckenridge, D.Min.  
Pastor

Rev. Brittany Stillwell  
Associate Pastor of Worship & Youth

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# THE WORSHIP OF GOD CHRISTMAS EVE

## DARE TO ENTER

The prelude provides an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God by being still and quiet.

Prelude		Aaron Foster, <i>organist</i>
Call to Worship	<i>All Is Well</i> Brittany Stillwell, <i>soloist</i>	Kirkpatrick & Smith
Old Testament Reading	<i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i>	Micah Breckenridge
* Hymn of Praise 89	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	ADESTE FIDELES
* Invocation		Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

## Greeting

One: The Lord be with you!

**Many: And also with you!**

## DARE TO WANDER

Gospel Reading	<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>	Bobby Rogers
God-with-us in our Wandering		Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge
Hymn of Reflection 93	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	CAROL

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Candle Lighting Litany		Glenn and Jeanine Everton
One:	Tonight, we conclude our Advent journey. As we light the Christ Candle, we welcome the one promised in scripture.	
<b>Many:</b>	<b>He is called Emmanuel: God with us!</b>	
One:	We celebrate the hope brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor.	
<b>Many:</b>	<b>He is called Emmanuel: God with us!</b>	
One:	We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God.	
<b>Many:</b>	<b>He is called Emmanuel: God with us!</b>	

\* The congregation will please stand, as you are able.

One: We sing of peace on earth and good will to all people.  
**Many: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!**  
One: And we lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting Father.  
**Many: He is called Emmanuel: God with us!**  
**Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Gospel Reading	<i>John 1:14</i>	Millie & Scarlet Malone
Hymn of Reflection 103	<i>Away in a Manger</i> (As we sing the last verse, the children are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon.)	MUELLER
Children's Sermon		Rev. Brittany Stillwell
	<i>God-with-us in our Wandering</i>	

## DARE TO WONDER

Gospel Reading	<i>Luke 2:8-20</i>	Anna Wilson Jennifer Wilson
God-with-us in our Wondering		Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

## Celebration of Holy Communion

*Today we celebrate communion. The practice of receiving communion by intinction is an ancient one. When taking communion by intinction, the body of the church acts together, moving as a community toward the table. When you approach the table take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and then eat it. Communion servers may offer words of affirmation such as "The bread of life given for you" or "The cup of salvation." When receiving the elements you may remain silent or offer "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." There is a gluten free option on the organ side.*

*Not That Far From Bethlehem*      Borders, Borders, Alexander  
Youth Ensemble

## DARE TO GO

Gospel Reading	<i>John 1:1-5</i>	Mary Ann Rogers
God-with-us in our Wondering		Rev. Brittany Stillwell

\* Hymn of Response 91      STILLE NACHT  
*Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night, darkness flies, all is light;  
Shepherds hear the angels sing, "Alleluia! Hail the King!"  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.  
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

\* Benediction      *Where the Light Begins*      Rev. Brittany Stillwell

\* Postlude      Aaron Foster, *organist*

Today's worship participants are Micah Breckenridge, a student at the University of Richmond and former youth, Bobby Rogers, a member of the Connect 4 Sunday School Class and a deacon, Glenn Everton, a Children's Sunday School teacher and a deacon, Jeanine Everton, a Children's Sunday School Teacher and a member of the Sanctuary Choir, Millie Malone, a member of the Youth Group, Scarlet Malone, a member of the Children's Department, Anna Wilson, a member of the Children's Department, Jennifer Wilson, a member of the Connect 4 Sunday School Class and the Sanctuary Choir, and Mary Ann Rogers, a Preschool Sunday School Teacher and a nursery supervisor.

The Youth Ensemble is made up of Olivia Hankins, Millie Malone, Emmaline Rogers and Allyson Vogel. Our pianist is Linda Marks, a member of the Missions Committee.

## THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

The Season of Advent ends on Christmas Eve. Tonight we celebrate the birth of Christ. We light the Christ Candle and celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us. We end our worship with candle-light, reminding us all that Christ is the light of the world—a light that cannot be overcome by the darkness; a light that shines through us.

The altar table is adorned with Advent candles, light that strongest with the lighting of the Christ candle. The stars hanging on the rustic, natural sticks call us to wonder at God's presence in the ordinary and unexpected. The light on the table originates in the cradle where the light shines the brightest and scatters out into the world. May this altar table provide visual inspiration as we wonder together.

Amplifying devices are available at the Welcome Center desk.

a different way to be Baptist