

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Tonight's guest pianist is Ray Hatton, a member of the Sanctuary Choir and First Friends SS class.

Tonight's worship participants are Gayla Foscue, a Children's SS Department teacher and the chair of the Finance committee; Richard Wright, a Children's SS Department teacher and chair of the Personnel committee; and Emily Callahan, a member of the Connect 4 SS class.

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.

WELCOME TO FIRST BAPTIST

We welcome you to our worship on this special occasion as we celebrate the birth of Christ. If you are here as a guest, please know your presence is very important to us. Perhaps you are here with family. Christmas is made for family! Or, it could be you have come because you are searching. We pray that you will find in our worship the spiritual affirmation you seek. Please give us an opportunity to greet you personally, and wish you a Merry Christmas! Join us in the Welcome Center following worship as we fellowship together.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Church. They are valuable members of our faith family and we welcome them into this house of worship. Our nursery is open during worship for infants and toddlers. The nursery is located out the doors to the left of the pulpit and down the hall. Our nursery workers will be happy to assist you. Extended Care is for children ages 3-4 and for 5-year-olds who have not entered kindergarten. These children will sit as a group with our Extended Care leaders on the first pew in the right section. All children through 5th grade are invited to the front of the Sanctuary to participate in our Children's Sermon. Our preschoolers will leave for Extended Care after this.

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.

Stay Connected to First Baptist through Social Media
www.facebook.com/fbcmemphis • Twitter: [@fbcmemphis](https://twitter.com/fbcmemphis)



Rev. Randy Hyde, D.Min.
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dennis McDuffie
Music Ministry Interim

Holly Hatton
Interim Children & Youth
Ministry Coordinator

Stacey Graves
Director, First Baptist Day School

Aaron Foster
Organist

David Córdoba Hernandez
Supply Pianist

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fbcmemphis.org



Posada (Inn) by Carmen Lomas Garza

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2019

*Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior,
baby who makes every birth holy.
May we, who like the shepherds
have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love,
return to our work with joy.
May we, for whom the heavens have opened
to proclaim that God is with us,
we who have fed on living bread
and drunk the wine of heaven,
go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day.*

—A New Zealand Prayer Book



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Christmas Eve

PREPARATION

Welcome Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

One: The Lord be with you!

Many: And also with you!

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

Prelude *Christmas Rhapsody* Roger C. Wilson
Aaron Foster, *organist*

ADORATION

Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Many: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

One: Come, let us worship the God.

All: Whose light brings hope to a weary world.

* Carol of Praise 87 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH
(Stanzas 1 & 2)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

* Lighting the Christ Candle Gayla Foscue and Richard Wright

* Carol 88 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

Invocation Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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

PROCLAMATION

* Carol 85 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL
(As we sing, the children are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon.)

Reading of the Christmas Story Holly Hatton

Luke 2:1-20

(pages 886-887 in the pew Bible)

One: This is God's Word for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Solo *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. Niles and Horton
Gayla Foscue, *soloist*

Prayer of Preparation Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde and Congregation

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Homily *Soul Journey* Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

RESPONSE

* Carol 86 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

Offertory Prayer Emily Callahan

Offertory *A Christmas Medley* arr. Salvatore Buono
Ray Hatton, *pianist*

(Tonight's offering will be for our Benevolence Ministry.)

* Congregational Response *Doxology* VENI EMMANUEL

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Amplifying devices are available at the Welcome Center desk.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Today we celebrate communion by intinction. When we do this 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 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." A gluten-free option is available on the organ side of the Sanctuary. A deacon will bring communion to those who cannot come forward.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Dispelling the Darkness Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

In him was life; and the life was the light of humankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

*The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.*

Then Jesus said to them, "I am the light of the world:

he who follows me shall not walk in darkness,

but shall have the light of life."

Let us walk in the light of Him who has come!

* Carol *Silent Night* 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 Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

Postlude arr. Albin C. Whitworth

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Aaron Foster, *organist*

a different way to be Baptist

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8: *That'll Be the Day*, Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15: *Love Incarnate*, Scripture and music

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22: *Promised Beforehand*, Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25; Romans 1:1-7

Service of Consolation, December 22: *Come to Me*, Matthew 11:28-30

Christmas Eve, December 24: *Soul Journey*, Luke 2:1-20

First Sunday in Christmastide, December 29: *Travels and Travails*, Matthew 2:13-23

Church-wide Christmas Party, Dec. 14, 4 pm, FLC

Mark your calendars for our church-wide Christmas Party! The Christmas party will be Saturday, December 14 at 4 pm in the Family Life Center and gym. Gather your friends and family and come join us for a fun filled afternoon with cookie decorating, Christmas card making, games, activities, hot chocolate and more!

We will be collectioning the following supplies for Perea (the preschool for the Church Health Center): household cleaning supplies; clorox wipes; paper towels; toilet paper; feminine hygiene products; broom/mop; non-perishable food. Stay tuned for more details.

Love Incarnate, Dec. 15, 11 am

In our worship on Sunday morning, December 15, the Music Ministry invites everyone to join in worship through the music of Christmas.

The Sanctuary Choir, our organist and pianist, and a “guest” string quintet, will lead our worship through the singing of the Christmas collection, *Love Incarnate*. With texts by Mary Kay Beall, and music by John Carter, *Love Incarnate* uses scripture and music to tell the story of God’s love, made known to all the world.

Family Advent-ure: Las Posadas, Dec. 15, 5 pm

Our children and families are invited to take part in the procession of Las Posadas. Las Posadas is Spanish for “lodgings”. In Latin and Central America, it is a festival celebrated during the season of Advent.

A group representing the Holy Family stands outside a series of houses, singing songs, asking for lodging. They are refused time and again until the group reaches the designated house. Finally, the travelers are permitted to enter. Prayer and song continue in the home, and festive foods are shared. The evening ends with a piñata in the shape of star.

We will celebrate Las Posadas together in the Hein Park neighborhood. We will meet ath David & Julie Richardson’s home at 4:45 pm. I look forward to celebrating the Nativity with you all in this special way! —Holly

Service of Consolation, Dec. 22, 6 pm

The Christmas holidays are often stressful, especially for those who have lost loved ones. Acknowledging that an important part of our life together is supporting and praying for one another, we are having a Service of Consolation for those who grieve at Christmas. I want to extend a personal invitation for you to attend, if possible. The worship service will take place Sunday, December 22, 6 pm, in the Chapel. Our desire is to provide a sense of hope at a difficult time. The dress will be casual, but our purpose is not. Please let us know if you have any questions. —Randy

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 6 pm

Invite your friends and family to join us for a service of carols candlelight, and communion on Christmas Eve in our Sanctuary. Together we will celebrate the arrival of Emmanuel, God-with-us, Jesus Christ.

JOY OF SERVING

Are you interested in using your gifts on one of the following committees or task forces? If so, please prayerfully consider in what way you can serve and check any and all that apply. Please return completed form in the offering plate or to Bridget Ellis in the church office.

___ **Committee on Committees:** Enlist and coordinate volunteers for church committees.

___ **Day School:** Responsible for setting policy and offering support for the FBDS program.

___ **Finance:** Responsible for the church's fiscal operations.

___ **Missions:** Plan and coordinate the annual Missions Week, allocate Mission Funds and keep local and global mission opportunities before the church.

___ **Personnel:** Responsible for dealing with issues affecting church staff including annual reviews, development and revision of job descriptions, and other policy matters.

___ **Preschool/Children:** Responsible for visioning, advising, and supporting the children's program.

___ **Property:** Maintains care of the property/grounds of the church.

___ **Public Relations:** for publicity of the church and church events.

___ **Senior Adult:** Coordinate activities/events/trips for Senior Adults.

___ **Youth:** Responsible for visioning, advising, and supporting the youth program.

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email: _____

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