

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday in Christmastide

Welcome Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

Prelude *Emitte Spiritum* arr. Philip G. Kreckel
John Michael Pfrommer *pianist*

Call to Worship Rev. Holly Hatton

Leader: There is a song in the air, there is a star in the heavens, there is a lowly stable,

All: there is a child to meet.

Leader: Let us bring our gifts, let us worship this child, let us follow the light,

All: from where the child sleeps.

Leader: May we be held in the palm of God's hand as we meet our Savior.

All: Let us keep the light before us.

Invocation Rev. Holly Hatton

* Hymn of Praise 111 *Sing We Now of Christmas* FRENCH CAROL
(Singing stanzas 1-4)

Children's Sermon Rev. Holly Hatton

Moment of Gratitude Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

Choral Worship *What Strangers Are These?* Jay Althouse
The Sanctuary Choir

What strangers are these who wander through the town? It is Joseph and weary Mary. And what do they seek, going up the street and down? 'Tis for shelter for Mary. For Mary is blest and chosen by the Lord to bear unto men a King. And who is this King of whom you proudly sing? He is Jesus, our Savior. What child is this, who in a manger lies? Jesus, the son of Mary. What men are these, the simple and the wise, who come here to see the Babe, the Child? They are shepherds and kings who traveled to the town, bringing gifts to the Holy Babe. On this blessed of nights a tiny Child was born for to save us all, a tiny Child named Jesus.

* Congregational Response *Doxology* VENI EMMANUEL

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel has come to thee, O Israel. Amen.***

Gospel Reading Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

Matthew 2:1-12
(pages 833-834 in the pew Bible)

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us . . .

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Preparation Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

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.

Message Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

Following Yonder Star

Musical Meditation *Ave Verum* arr. Philip G. Kreckel
John Michael Pfrommer, *pianist*

Prayers of the People Rev. Holly Hatton

The Lord's Prayer Rev. Holly Hatton

**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.**

* Congregational Response 252 GLORIA PATRI

Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.***

* Invitation to Discipleship Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

Hymn of Response 117 DIX
As with Gladness Men of Old

The Welcoming of New Members

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes. We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace.

* Commission and Blessing Rev. Holly Hatton

Leader: May we be held in the palm of God's hand as we follow our Savior.

All: Let us keep the light before us.

* Benediction Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kimmel

* Postlude Edward Broughton

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Aaron Foster, *organist*

Per the policy of FBC, masks must be worn over the mouth and nose at all times in the building. Thank you.

Today's worship participants are John Michael Pfrommer, our guest pianist.

Harold Weaver is today's audio tech volunteer and Skip Howard is today's video recording volunteer.

Bridget Ellis will celebrate her seventeenth anniversary as an FBC employee on January 3.

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

At Christmas, the Word that spoke Creation into being is made flesh. The Incarnation is a surprising marvel of God's love in action, and we are given twelve days to contemplate and celebrate it with joy and thanksgiving. Christmas is short for "Christ's Mass," the worship service that marks the birth of Jesus. The liturgical colors for Christmas are, like Easter, white and gold.