



## CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

December 23 - 7:00 PM

The Staff of First Baptist Church extends the warmest best wishes to you this Christmas, with a prayer that the New Year ahead may bring the richest of God's blessings upon your life and the life of our church. We count it a privilege to share the journey of faith with each of you, and we offer our gratitude for the many ways you love and support us. May the celebration of our Savior's birth deepen our faith and stir our hearts to renewed commitment to Him and to one another. Merry Christmas!

*Addrian, Greg, Jamie, Jim, Kelly, Lesley,  
Mary Alice, Mike, Natalie, Shannon, and Sharon*



307 South Manning Street, 29624 / 864.224.1622 / AndersonFBC.org

We covenant as Christ followers, through humility and love, to share in God's ongoing work of redemption and to serve our world by creating a safe space for healing and wholeness, growth and transformation, awe and wonder.

# Welcome

December 22, 2024

### PLEASE NOTE

**YEAR END GIVING**

All end of the year gifts should be turned in or postmarked before **Tuesday, December 31**, to be counted in the 2024 year. If you have any questions please contact Lesley Hudgins in the FBC Church Office.

### MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

#### INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS OFFERING

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & CBF Global Missions Offering  
Through the month of December  
Given to date: \$735.00

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### FBC YOUTH EVENT

January 5 - 4:30-7:00 PM

Ice Skating at Wren Park  
followed by dinner at Electric City Pizza.

### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY



January 16 — Noon — Fellowship Hall  
We're excited to have a representative from Carolina Hybrid Academy come and share with us!

Cost: \$10 Menu: Turkey and Dressing, Yeast Rolls, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Soufflé, and Chocolate Drizzle Cake

Please call the Church Office to sign up by 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 9.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT

Sunday, January 12 - 11:45 AM  
In the Fellowship Hall

Call the Church Office or email [sharon.royals@andersonfbc.org](mailto:sharon.royals@andersonfbc.org)  
to sign up by 3:00 PM on January 5.

### MEMBERS IN ACTION

#### NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Offertory Prayer: Dewey Boyd  
Visitor Outreach: Marian Moorhead  
Children's Worship: Children will remain in the service.  
Security: Jimmy Cooley and Dale Ellenburg

### OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST

**Monday, December 23**  
7:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Communion Service

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**  
Church Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**  
Church Office Closed  
No regularly scheduled activities

**Thursday, December 26**  
Church Office Closed

**Friday, December 27**  
Church Office Closed

**Sunday, December 29**  
9:30 AM Worship  
10:30 AM Sunday School

### Serving Today

Offertory Prayer:  
Lyn Darby

Visitor Outreach:  
Tom Martin

Children's Worship:  
Children will remain in the service.

Security:  
Jack Abraham and Thomas Roach

Miss Mary Alice Edmonds, Organist

Mrs. Shannon Griffin, CDC Director

Mrs. Lesley Hudgins, Financial Manager

Mrs. Sharon Royals, Communications Manager

Miss Natalie Rutledge, Musician in Residence

Mr. Jamie Smith, Asst. Music Director

Mrs. Kelly Smith, Pianist

Mr. Addrian Wilson, Minister of Music

Mr. Greg Wilson, Facilities Manager

Dr. Jim Wooten, Interim Pastor



Advent is a four-week season of expectation, anticipation, and preparation for the first and second comings of Christ. You'll see references to this season throughout our sanctuary. The color purple on our pulpit symbolizes the royalty of the One for whom we wait and hope. The theme of light is prominent during Advent to remind us that Christ is the light who comes into the world. The Advent wreath is a simple circle of evergreen branches, a sign of life without end. Candles for each Sunday in Advent surround the Christ candle, reminding us that Christ is our hope, peace, joy, and love. We pray that the keeping of Advent this year will make us watchful and ready for the coming of Jesus Christ and will prepare our hearts for a deeper and richer celebration of his birth.

# The Worship of God

Welcome Ann Campbell

Prelude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Anna Laura Page  
Mary Alice Edmonds, Organist

Chiming of the Trinity

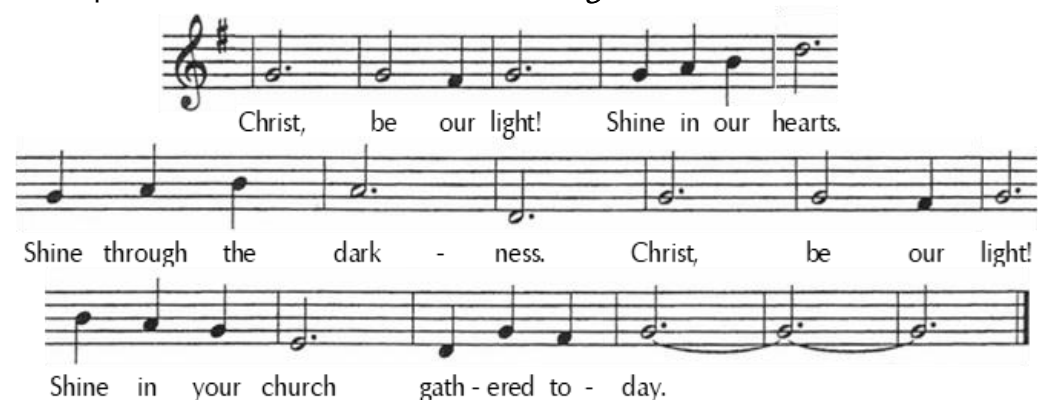
Call To Worship *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Cynthia Dobrinski  
Handbell Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle Love Chad and Leslie Walker

Leaders: Will you come to our world, God?  
*Will you come with love?*  
For we have too much loneliness,  
*not enough friendship;*  
Too many rules, *not enough gospel;*  
Too much getting, *not enough caring.*

**Congregation: O come, O come, Emmanuel. When you come, bring Love.**

Choral Response *Christ Be Our Light* FERRELL



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

\*Hymn No. 85 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

Offertory Prayer Lyn Darby

Offertory Music *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* arr. Gordon Young

Praising God For His Gifts To Us GLORIA PATRI

*Glory Be to the Father*

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.

## Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a visual way of marking the four weeks of Advent. The wreath is a simple circle of evergreen branches, a sign of life without end. Four Advent candles encircle a central Christ Candle. In our wreath, there are three purple candles and one rose candle, which is lit on the third Sunday in Advent to signify the joy that is soon to come.

## Cheerful Giving Is a Part of Worship

While we will collect offering by passing our offering plates, we also have the ability to receive gifts electronically. Electronic giving is available at [andersonfbc.org/give](http://andersonfbc.org/give), through our church app, or by texting [fbcanderson](text:fbcanderson) and a dollar amount to 73256.

\*Please stand if able.

Solo *Carol of Joseph*  
Jamie Smith and Leslie Nation

Morning Prayer Ann Campbell  
*Prayer concludes by saying in unison:*

**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 have trespassed 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.**

Anthem *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* Dan Forest  
Sanctuary Choir

The Hands that First held Mary's child were hard from working wood.  
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.  
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,  
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,  
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,  
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,  
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,  
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."  
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,  
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms from heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift  
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.  
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,  
but charged with faith may we behold to follow in His way.

(Children will remain in the service today.)

Scripture **Matthew 1:18-25**  
(Pew Bible Page 955)

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.  
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon **"Echoes of Joseph"** Jim Wooten

Hymn No. 103 *Away In the Manger* MUELLER

Benediction Jim Wooten

Postlude *From Heaven Above* Wilbur Held  
Mary Alice Edmonds, Organist

## The Invitation

We invite you to commit your life to Jesus Christ as His disciple and to join our congregation as a member. We receive members in one of three ways: upon profession of faith in Christ followed by believer's baptism; by transfer of membership from another Christian church; or by statement of previous Christian experience. This process begins when you respond to the invitation at the conclusion of worship by coming forward to request membership. It continues with a conversation with one of our ministers, a new member orientation (offered periodically), and a vote by the congregation at a quarterly business meeting. We'd love the opportunity to talk with you about becoming a Christian or joining our church as a member.