

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2017

Four O'clock

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Music for Gathering

Cassie Bell, Lillie Bell, Donis Schweizer and Kay Greene

Ringing of the Hour

John Spinks

Solo

The Wexford Carol
Sarah Benedict

-Irish Carol

Lighting the Advent Candles

Michael, Carolyn, Ellie, and Jack Baughman

We have remembered the shepherds. Workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them.

We light the first candle to remember the shepherds.

We have remembered Joseph. Worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

We light the second candle to remember Joseph.

We have remembered Mary. Innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

We light the third candle to remember Mary.

Today, we remember that "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined . . . For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

We are grateful for the prophets of old and for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think in new ways, who show us a future we never anticipated.

We light the fourth candle to remember the prophets.

†**Passing the Peace**

Jeff Harris

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children participating in the Impromptu Nativity may exit now.

†**Hymn 89**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

†**Invocation**

Jaime Fitzgerald

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Anthem

Carols Rejoice!
Women's Ensemble

arr. Purifoy

Impromptu Nativity

Children

Lighting the Christ Candle

†**Hymn 85**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath brought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Scripture Reading

Jeff and Jodi Harris

Anthem

All Bells in Paradise

-Rutter

Sermon

"There Is Room"

Jeff Harris

Solo

O Holy Night
Kim McFarland

-Adam

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Confession

Jeff Harris

Eternal God, you love us, but we have not loved you.

You call us, but we have not listened.

You ask us to love, but wrapped in our own concerns,
we walk away from neighbors in need.

We condone evil, prejudice, violence, and greed.

Yet, in your great mercy you forgive what we have been.

Turn us toward Jesus, so that we can be the people you already know us to be.

Silence

Anthem

African Lullaby

-arr. Schram

Alex Tapp and Wilson Edwards, Percussion

Words of Institution

Jeff Harris

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jeff Harris

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Come to the table by the center aisle, take a wafer, dip it in the cup, partake of it, and return to your seat by the side aisle.

Meditation

Jesu Bambino

-Yon

Donis Schweizer, violin; Kelsey Lynch, cello

†**Offertory Prayer**

Malik Miller

Offering and Anthem

How Should a King Come?

-Owens

†**Doxology 253, Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Jeff Harris

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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Solo

I Wonder as I Wander -arr. Mark Schweizer
Jim Hawkins, voice; Donis Schweizer, violin