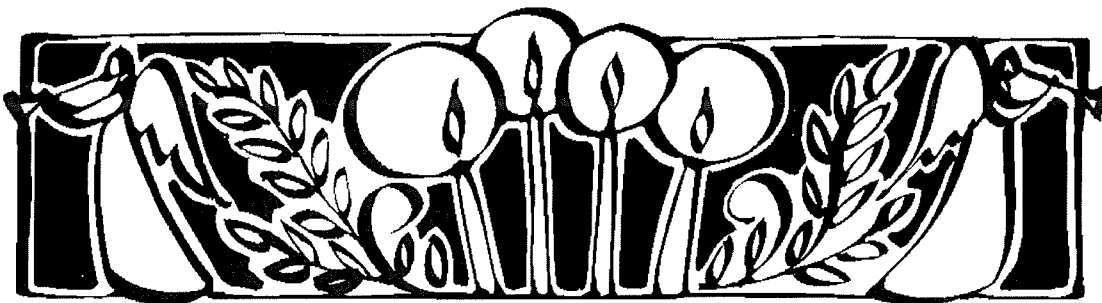


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Seeking the peace and well-being of the city

December 24, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Fourth
Sunday
in Advent



PRELUDE

An Advent Meditation
The Holly and the Ivy

D. Lasky
J. Biery

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

ADVENT INTROIT

Prepare the Way, O Zion
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
REJOICE, REJOICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

#176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

TRURO

C
 $\frac{G7}{D}$
 $\frac{C}{E}$
C
F
 $\frac{G7}{D}$
C
 $\frac{G}{B}$
Am
 $\frac{G}{B}$

1 Lift up your heads, O might - y gates: be - hold, the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and

Csus C $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm C G $\frac{G}{B}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
 you: here, Lord, a - bid! Let me your in - ner -
 no - bler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

C $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G $\frac{G}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ C Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: George Weessel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); para. Psalm 24:7-10
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
 L.M.

*INVOCATION AND 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,
on our advent path
we find ourselves busy
with the buying of gifts, putting on special meals,
and taking part in our favourite traditions.
You invite us is to adjust our lens;
to see the world through your eyes,
to love the world with your heart of compassion.
Forgive us when we turn our eyes away.
Forgive us for getting weary of the way of love.
Help us to be faithful in small acts of mercy
that heal the ones we are engaged with.
Help us to learn obedience from Mary and Joseph
as they accepted their call,
as they accepted the gift that Jesus would be born to them,
as they accepted God's holy interruption
that would save the world.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI**

R. Goodson

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

ANTHEM

Silence to Song
Conducted by Katie Lam

J.M. Martin

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Pages 706-707, 1st half of the NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING (The Candle of Joy)

CAROL (remain seated)

#178 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

B. McGee

(sing with the choir before and after the litany)

Unison

Chords: C, C/E, F, Dm7, G7, C, Gm6/Bb, A, A7/C#, Dm, G, G/B, C, C/E, F, Dm7, G7, C, Gm6/Bb, A, A7/C#, Dm, F/G, G13, C, F/C, C

Lyrics: Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is called Em-man - u - el. God with us, re-vealed in us, his name is called Em-man-u - el.

LITANY

Let your Spirit burn in our hearts;
let your Light shine in our world;
 and as our Advent time of waiting is nearing its end,
let the flame of your Love warm the place
where the Christ would be born today. Amen

*CAROL OF PRAISE

#174 Prepare the Way of the Lord

Taizé Community

I II

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,

III IV

and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CAROL OF MEDITATION**

#180 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

WORDS: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

F Fdim7 F $\frac{F\#dim7}{Bb}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

F $\frac{F}{Eb}$ D D7 Gsus Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by,
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

F $\frac{E\dim}{G}$ $G\sharp\dim7$ A N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ A

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

F $F\dim7$ F $Bb+$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ $C7$ F

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-7

Page 59, 2nd half of the NRSV Bible

Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

SERMON

Rev. Jeremy Keay

CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

P. Fey

***Offertory Response**

So, bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
 come peasant, king, to own him;
 the King of kings salvation brings,
 let loving hearts enthrone him.
 This, this is Christ the King,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

*Prayer of Gratitude

*CAROL FOR THE JOURNEY

#189 Angels From the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

WORDS: James Montgomery (1771-1854)
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7.

B \flat B \flat D B \flat B \flat F F E \flat B \flat D E \flat B \flat D Gm F A F7 B \flat

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es; leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

B \flat F B \flat D B \flat F7 C Gm D D Gm D Gm B \flat Gm F C C7 F

you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

F B \flat E \flat Cm B \flat D Cm E \flat Gm Fsus F7 B \flat

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

***THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Choral Benediction**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

VENI EMMANUEL

***The Sending of the Community**

***Congregational Amen**

The service of the church into the world - - begins again this week

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo

D. Bédard

***Please stand, as you are able**

We are grateful for those who serve with us today:

Writing & Leading - Rose Merke;

Prayers of the People - Becky Bonham;

Readers - Gwen Borowski, Warren Tasker;

Video & Sound Technician - Evan Adnams.

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FBC Ministry Team:

Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato, Senior Minister

Rev. Jeremy Keay, Minister of Youth, Young Adults, Outreach

Dawn Stiles, Minister of Children and Families

Dr. Evelyn Grieger, Minister of Music

Jerrold Eilander, Organist, Choir Accompanist

As we attempt to provide comfortable spaces for all and we have some members who have severe scent sensitivities, we ask that people refrain from wearing perfumes and colognes on Sunday morning to church. Thank you for helping us care for one another.

— FBC Council