

Seeking the peace and well-being of the city

December 29, 2024 11:00 a.m.



PRELUDE

Christmas Songs Medley arr. N.Olanday

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL

#188 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*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

Generous God,

You have faithfully brought us through another year. You have provided for all our needs, even when we feared lack. You sent someone to care, when we felt lonely. Amid our pain and suffering, your healing hand was present. You showed us that from everlasting to everlasting you are the same loving father and friend.

Forgive us when we worry and doubt the integrity of your word; when we choose the glitter of this world rather than the gold of your revealed wisdom; and when we settle for less than your abundance.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession)

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.

FIRST READING

Psalm 90 Pages 605-606, 1st half of the NRSV Bible Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

RESPONSIVE READING

One: Mary pondered all the things she heard and saw concerning her baby, Jesus.

Many: The choir of angels

announcing their message of hope. One: The shepherds who came to worship. Many: The magi, with their gifts of gold,

frankincense and myrrh.

One: God is always speaking to us

through various avenues.

All: Like Mary, let us take the time to ponder or meditate on all the things God reveals to us, every day of our lives.

*CAROL OF PRAISE

#222 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CAROL OF MEDITATION

#180 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

SECOND READING

Luke 2:15-19 Pages 60, 2nd half of the NRSV Bible Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

SERMON Rev. Dr. Allan Effa

(Silence for personal reflection)

CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS Offertory

Christmas Lullaby

arr. N.Olanday

*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

#200 While by the Sheep

JÜNGST

*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.

*The Sending of the Community

*Congregational Amen

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

POSTLUDE

Dance of the Sugar Plums

P.I. Tchaikovsky, arr. Strelezki, Esipoff

*Please stand, as you are able

We are grateful for those who serve with us today: Writing & Worship Leading - Christina Ward; Prayers of the People - Debbie Benson; Readers - Debbie Benson, Devi Henry; Guest Pianist - Nathan Olanday.

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FBC Ministry Staff:

Rev. Dr. Allan Effa, Transitional 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