

# First Baptist Church of Marion



Dr. David Smith, Interim Pastor  
Rev. Jennifer H. Jennings, Associate Pastor for Children and Discipleship  
Ms. Allie McNeely, Director of Music  
Mrs. Heather W. Anderson, Organist  
Mr. David John, Minister of Youth

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**The Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 14, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m.**

Welcome

Dr. David Smith

**GATHERING**

Prelude

*Christmas Overture*

Martin

Acolytes: Chris, Christi & Graeme Hollifield

Call to Worship

Dr. Smith

One: It is the truth we first learn. We sing it as our song. We are love.

**All: We are love. We are made for love.**

One: When it's absent, we feel brittle. When it's withheld, we feel starved. It is food and wine and Halloween candy.

**All: God, we feast on it.**

One: So when you say, "Behold, this is my son," it feels right, pre-known, that he would come as love itself.

**All: You are love. We are made for you.**

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Dr. Smith

***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.***

\*Hymn No. 132

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Beth Hall, Vicki Burton

One: Jesus, we already knew you. You are the first truth we already knew. You are love.

**All: You are love. We are made for you.**

Song of Response

*We Wait in Hope*

Raney

We **prepare** in hope for the morning Light,  
for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.  
We **prepare** with joy for the Savior's birth;  
we **prepare** in hope for peace on earth, peace on earth.

## PROCLAIMING

**First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir presents**

***Let There Be Christmas***

**By Joseph M. Martin**

*Christmas Overture* (See bulletin insert)

Narrator: Let there be FAITH

*The Advent Rose*

Narrator: Let there be HOPE

*The Divine Expectation*

Narrator: Let there be PEACE

Concertato on *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (See bulletin insert)

Narrator: Let there be LOVE

*Carols from a Quiet Manger*

Narrator: Let there be JOY

*Arise! (Hodie Christus Natus Est)*

Narrator: Let there be WONDER

*Bleak Midwinter's Gift* (Offertory)

Narrator: Let there be GRACE

*Let There Be Christmas*

Narrator: Let there be LIFE

*A Joyful Gathering of Carols* (See bulletin insert)

**Director:** Allie McNeely

**Accompanist:** Heather Anderson

**Narrators:** Sherron Crawford, Chris Hollifield

**Soloists:** Emily Barton-Glenn, Don Ramsey, Crystal Sargent, Olivia Higdon

## RESPONDING

\*Hymn No. 143

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Jennifer Jennings

Morning Prayer

Rev. Jennings

\*Doxology

Old 100th

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise Him all creatures here below.***

***Praise Him above ye heavenly host;***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## SENDING

\*Benediction

Dr. Smith

Postlude

*Joy to the World*

arr. Page

\* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

*The Advent liturgy comes from the series “Have a Beautiful, Terrible Advent!” by Kate Bowler in her book “Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens.”*

### Welcome to Our Guests!

We are grateful that you are present today! You are invited to fill out an information card indicating your presence in worship and interest in First Baptist Church. **Guest Information Cards** are available from an usher. Once completed, feel free to hand your card to an usher, one of our pastors, or drop it in an offering plate. Also, for those with hearing loss, **hearing assistance devices** are available for use during the service. Our ushers will assist you with these or any other needs you have.

### God’s Invitation to You!

The singing of *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* is a time of invitation in our worship service when you may come forward to share publicly your faith decision. Or you may speak to one of our pastors, who will be available at various exits after worship. You may also contact a member of the church staff by telephone or email at any time.

### Partner with God and First Baptist Church of Marion!

Join FBC in ministry by giving to our General Budget and Missions Offering. Offering plates are passed during worship for contributions. Also, electronic giving is available through the adjacent QR code.



**First Baptist Church**  
**99 North Main Street, Marion, North Carolina**  
*[fbcmarion.org](http://fbcmarion.org)*