

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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
First Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. David Smith

GATHERING

Prelude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Acolytes: Jim & Bev Holland

arr. Hayes

Call to Worship

Allie McNeely

One: We are Christmas people. Light in the darkness, Christmas people. Ruler of the universe born as a baby. Inversion of the world on a starry night kind of folks.

All: We are a Christmas people.

One: Expectation amidst sorrow. A strong suspicion that empire, in the face of true divinity, will cry CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM! But first we must talk about shepherds and wisemen.

All: We will bow down before him. After all, we saw the star.

One: Our story is of a refugee family and no room in the inn and the murder of the innocents, so we string up lights and declare that Jesus steals into every darkness

All: He does. He does it so that we can see.

One: Christmas is the faint light of transcendence — not the blinding beams of the impending: HE WILL COME AGAIN AND NOW HE IS RISING INTO HEAVEN

All: On Christmas, he's a baby, our ember, Glowing,

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Allie McNeely

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. 404

I Need Thee Every Hour

NEED

PROCLAIMING

Scripture Lesson	Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible page 783)	Allie McNeely
One: This is the Word of God.		
All: Thanks be to God.		
Children's Sermon		Steve Little
*Hymn No. 113	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Joys and Concerns		Dr. Smith
Morning Prayer		Dr. Smith
Anthem	<i>Let There Be Christmas</i> Sanctuary Choir	Martin
Sermon	<i>Finding the Right King</i>	Dr. Smith
RESPONDING		
*Hymn No. 125	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
Greeting Time		
Prayer of Dedication		Carolyn Young
Offertory	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	arr. Innes
*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

Praise Ye, the Lord of Hosts

arr. Bish

* *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 *Angels We Have Heard on High* 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 the exit 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
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*fbcmarion.org***