

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 Second Sunday in Advent
December 7, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Welcome

Dr. David Smith

GATHERING

Prelude

Joy to the World
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Handbell Choir
Acolytes: Luke, Emily, and Valerie Glenn

arr. Thompson

arr. Thompson

Call to Worship

Allie McNeely

One: God, we long for peace, but we have already drawn our blades.
We are at war with each other, and within ourselves. Our world
— the evidence of our folly — on full display. We waste away
in quarries dug by our own hands.

All: Oh, Jesus, come to us.

One: Come suddenly, into the center of our deepest need. Come swiftly
into the chaos of our conflict and distress. Establish the peaceful
order of your rule, not ours.

All: Your kingdom, not ours.

One: Reign with sovereignty in our hearts, which refuse correction.
Reign with power over all that is ungovernable.

**All: Reign with mercy over our communities, our neighborhoods,
and our nation.**

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. 124

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

The Eichner Family

One: Blessed are we who look to you, Jesus, to be the change
we cannot enact.

All: Come, Prince of Peace, to our bleeding world.

Song of Response	<i>We Wait in Hope</i>	Raney
	We watch in hope for the morning Light, for the love of Christ to illuminate the night. We watch with joy for the Savior's birth; we watch in hope for peace on earth, peace on earth.	

PROCLAIMING

Gospel Lesson	Matthew 3:1-12 <i>(Pew Bible page 784)</i>	Sharen Warren
One:	This is the Word of God.	
All:	Thanks be to God.	

*Hymn No. 151	<i>We Three Kings</i>	KINGS OF ORIENT
---------------	-----------------------	-----------------

Epistle Lesson	Romans 15:1-13 <i>(Pew Bible page 924)</i>	Mark Burton
One:	This is the Word of God.	
All:	Thanks be to God.	

Children's Sermon		Rev. Jennifer Jennings
-------------------	--	------------------------

Joys and Concerns		Rev. Jennings
-------------------	--	---------------

Morning Prayer		Rev. Jennings
----------------	--	---------------

Anthem	<i>In Silence We Wait</i> Sanctuary Choir	Larson
--------	--	--------

Sermon	<i>Prepare the Way of the Lord</i>	Dr. Smith
--------	------------------------------------	-----------

RESPONDING

*Hymn No. 126	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	REGENT SQUARE
---------------	---	---------------

Greeting Time

Prayer of Dedication		Dr. Smith
----------------------	--	-----------

Offertory	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	arr. Hayes
-----------	---------------------------------------	------------

*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

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Handbell Choir*

arr. Thompson

arr. Thompson

* *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, from the Realms of Glory* 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