

We are honored you have chosen to join us in worship. There is a time in our service when we will welcome guests; we will not, however, ask you to stand, raise your hand or do anything that makes you feel awkward. We would like to know you were here, however. Please fill out the information request below and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or minister. We promise to use it only to contact you about our church.

This is my (our)...
___ First visit to First Baptist Church
___ Second (+) visit

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Marital Status
___ Married ___ Single ___ Widow(er)

Telephone _____

Children at Home (Name/Age/Grade)

- ___ I am new to Rome.
___ I am interested in knowing more about First Baptist Church.
___ I would like to talk with a minister.
___ I would like to know how to become a Christian.
___ I am interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Church.
___ I am a guest of:

Sunday, December 5
9:00 a.m. Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)
9:20 a.m. Christmas Fellowship and Presentation - Fellowship Hall
10:45 a.m. Christmas at First Baptist - Sanctuary

Monday, December 6
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Dining Room
5:15 p.m. First Baptist Ringers - Choir Suite

Tuesday, December 7
5:30 p.m. Pastor Search Committee - Builder's Room

Wednesday, December 8
4:45 p.m. First Choice Curbside meals (Reservation Only)
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Zoom
FBC Kids Connect
Youth Hang Out and Wednesday Connection - Youth Room

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Libby, by Richard York.

"ANGELS AMONG US" ART GALLERY EXHIBIT
The First Baptist Church Gallery has installed an art exhibit to enhance our Advent worship theme. Pieces on display include needlework, marble sculptures, watercolor, oil paintings, as well as vintage window displays from Rome's Ransom Florist. Take time to appreciate the artwork shared by many of our members. In addition, Elaine Lanier has invited us to appreciate her collection of angels, which are in the glass cases. The Gallery is on the Third Floor of the Education Building.

COOL YULE: FAMILY EDITION
Mark your calendars for next Sunday, December 12 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. for a family style celebration of the Advent season. Register to attend through the link that has been provided through all of our usual channels, or contact Kristen Pope.

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST RECORDING
Our "Christmas at First Baptist" recording from a few years ago is still available two ways. You may purchase a CD in the church office for \$10 or you may download the recording on Amazon. (Just search for Christmas at First Baptist.) The album has more than a dozen Christmas carols by the Sanctuary Choir, special music by Joan Hill, Beverly Harris, Frank Murphy and Keith Reaves and closes with "Immanuel" featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir and Children's Choir.

HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS
You may sign up to provide gifts for those individuals who have been identified. A link was provided to church members via email. The link is also on our website and the church's Facebook page. Gifts are due to the church no later than Wednesday, December 15. If you have questions, please contact Kate Barron, Jennifer Uldrick, Amy Cox, or John Uldrick.

WOMEN'S EPIPHANY RETREAT
January 7-8 in Rome
"Creating Holy Space"
Open yourself to receive God's gift of rest, relaxation and restoration.

First Baptist Church, 100 East Fourth Avenue, Rome, GA 30161
Phone: 706.291.6850 Website: www.fbcrome.org

23rd Annual

Christmas at First Baptist

December 5, 2021

10:45 a.m.

To help maintain a spirit of worship, please silence phones. We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44 and through the livestream over the church website and YouTube. Masks for not required for people in the building, but are encouraged, especially when social distancing is not possible.

Prelude • Joan Hill, organ
Once in Royal David's City . . . arr. Robert Hobby

Welcome • John Uldrick, Minister of Students/Missions

"Angels Among Us" Threshold Moment

Musical notation for "Angels Among Us" Threshold Moment with lyrics: All night, all day, an-gels watch in' o-ver me, my Lord.

Lighting the Candle of Peace • Mark and Sandra Hester

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,
alight within us Your flame of peace this day.

Grant us openness to hear Your message.

Grant us courage to be Your messengers in the world,
creating more peace in the midst of fear.

Musical notation for "Lighting the Candle of Peace" with lyrics: Do not be a-fraid. Do not be a-fraid. Do not be a-fraid. An-gels watch-in' o-ver me.

Canticle of the Turningarr. Hal Hopson
The text to this anthem is a paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Mary's Magnificat.)

The Shepherd's Lambarr. Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

Away in a Mangerarr. Mac Wilberg
Children's Choir and Youth Choir

Ding Dong, Merrily On High.arr. Larry Shackley

Rise Up, Shepherd.arr. Joel Raney
Sanctuary Choir

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long.arr. Dan Goeller
Congregation

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
 And the mountains in reply echoing their joyful strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
 Let every heart prepare Him room
 And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
 O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.
 O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
 With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Offertory Prayer • Dr. Ron Murray, Interim Pastor

Offertory • Christmas at First Baptist Orchestra
Messiah Suite. . . . arr. Keith Christopher

The First Nowell.arr. Mac Wilberg

I Saw Three Shipsarr. John Frederick Hudson

*This anthem is given to the glory of God and in honor of the Music Ministry,
 by Bob and Ferne Gibson.*

Sanctuary Choir

Closing Words • Keith A Reaves, Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

Benediction • Combined Choirs
Immanuel . . . arr. Paul Leddington-Wright

**Funding for the string section is made possible through
 The Natalie Dyer Reynolds Music Fund at First Baptist Church.**

**Additional funding for the orchestra is given to the glory of God
 and in honor of the Music Ministry, by Janice Dismuke.**

The Sanctuary Choir

Claire Adams, Gene Adams, Leeanna Allen, Pam Arrington, Larry Atwell,
 Jennifer Bagby, Gary Barton, Kay Bratton, Cindy Childs, Jennie Cook,
 Aaron Cooper, Jenny Cooper, Marsha Dempsey, Dianne Dobson,
 Cathy Dollar, Terry Dollar, Mary Donahue, Mac Eubanks, Daniel Fincher,
 Karen Foss, Ashley Garner, Erin Hall, John Head, Lee Ann Head, Betty Holland,
 Catherine Jackson, Chris Jackson, Bobby Jones, Jennifer Kearns, Elaine Lanier,
 Daniel Lynch, Becky McCord, Kelley Ozier, Nancy Ratcliffe, Hilary Reaves,
 Heather Shores, Emma Sprayberry, Gwen Stephens, Carolyn Tillman,
 Bill Weidemann, Len Willingham

The Orchestra

Violin: Paula Pasqua, Joe Lester, Maria Mejia, Perry Westmoreland
Viola: Samantha Lester **Cello:** Tara Suswal
Flute: Alyssa Gray **Oboe:** Jeannie Bastos **Clarinet:** Wanda Dugger
Trumpet: Adam Hayes **French Horn:** Carley Robinson, McAllister June
Trombone: Howard Huber **Tuba:** Regan McCoy
Percussion: Wes Walker, Katie Horn, Jedd Lovel
Piano: Beverly Harris **Organ:** Joan Hill

The Children's Choir

Jane Barron, Mike Barron, Eston Collins, Addie Kate Cox, Davis Donahue,
 Anne Walker Ellington, Hutch Fannin, Ava Hall, Julia Harris, West Hortman,
 Hudson Hoyt, Wesley Knight, Pace Knight, Henry Lewis, Macy Lewis,
 Tripp Losh-Jones, Marlo Salter, Sealy Salter, Ben Sanker, Katy Smith,
 Mary Jack Smith, Callie Terry, Sim Weldon
 Betty Holland, Mary Donahue, Jennifer Bagby, assistants

The Youth Choir

Chandler Bagby, Will Bagby, Katelyn Clark, Emalee Collins, Lee Donahue,
 Murray Ellington, Cora Fannin, Braden Hood, Katelyn Hood, Callie Hunt,
 Campbell Hunt, Sarah Kate Hunt, Davis Inman, Harrison Inman, Wesley Inman,
 Maggie Keith, Caroline Knight, Aaron Lewis, Carter Lewis, Alex Martin,
 Briggs Poyner, Eva Poyner, Elizabeth Richie, Emily Richie, Sarah Tunnell,
 Carrie Twente, Sam Twente

Keith A Reaves, Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

What is Advent?

The observance of Advent began in about the sixth century. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day and the inclusive weekdays. The word, ADVENT, consists of two Latin words: ad-venie, "to come to." Therefore, the message of Advent is that God in Christ is coming to the world. One of the most beautiful traditions of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath. The wreath is circular in shape to represent the eternity of God, without beginning or end. Evergreens are used to symbolize God's gift of life and growth and life to come. The candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, symbolize God's Son as the light of the world. Individual attributes (hope, faith, joy, love) are linked with the individual candles. Three of the candles are purple, representing royalty. One candle is pink and is lit on the third Sunday and symbolizes joy. The fifth candle is white and larger and is in the center of the wreath to represent Christ and is therefore called the Christ Candle. We light this candle on Christmas Eve. The flame reminds us that Christ is the light of the world, the light which dispels all darkness and fear.

Prayer Concerns

(Please place in offering plate or hand to a minister.)

Dr. Ron Murray
Interim Pastor

Keith A. Reaves
Senior Associate / Minister of Worship

Tamara Tillman Smathers
Minister of Education / Administration

John H. Uldrick
Minister to Students and Missions

Kristen Pope
Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens
Minister to Extended Family

Joan Hill, *Organist* Beverly Harris, *Pianist*