

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2022

11:00 A.M.

We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44 and YouTube.
As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

Chiming of the Hour

Organ/Piano Prelude

“Joy to the World” ...arr. Joel Raney

Call to Worship

Keith Reaves

We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the Light of the world.

We are here to worship God - and his Son Jesus- born this day in Bethlehem.

The candle of hope reminds us of the promises that God would raise up a savior for His people.

Christ is our hope and our salvation. He calls us to share our hope in Him with each other.

All (Singing): O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

The candle of peace reminds us that it is only with Jesus that true peace can be found.

Christ brings the peace of God to us. He calls us to share the peace He gives with each other.

All (Singing): O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

The candle of joy reminds us that God gives joy to every heart that abides in Him.

As Mary rejoiced in the birth of Jesus - so His birth in us brings us joy. God calls us to share the joy He gives with each other.

All (Singing): O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

The candle of love reminds us that Jesus is God's gift of love to us - and that in Him, the light of love triumphs over darkness.

Love never fails - it transforms all those who give it and receive it. God calls us to share His love with each other.

All (Singing): O come, let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

The Christ candle reminds us the Light of the world was born this day.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a Light has shined. He is called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us!

Carol of Praise No. 119

“His Name Is Called Emmanuel”

Stories from the Music of Christmas

Hymn 107...“O Little Town of Bethlehem”— Hilary Reaves, *narrator*

Hymn 126...“Angels from the Realms of Glory”— Nick Georgian, *narrator*

Hymn 134...“Silent Night”— Len Willingham, *narrator*

Hymn 102...“Joy to the World”— Gwen Stephens, *narrator*

Reading of Holy Scripture

John 1:1-14

(The text to this scripture may be found on page 1049 of the Bibles in the pew racks.)

Kristen Mathis, reader

Leader: The Word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God.**

Gloria Patri (Hymn 704)

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. Amen.

Special Music

Diane Lumpkin

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”...Robert McGimsey

Sermon

David Brooks

“The Most Important Word”

Hymn of Response No. 122

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Prayer of Stewardship

Tamara Tillman Smathers

Piano/Organ Offertory

“Jesu Noel”...arr. Eleanor Whitsett

Meditation Text:

The miracle of Christmas: What is it? Is it the star, the singing angels, the wondering shepherds, the lovely mother, the exotic kings? Is it the cold night, the hopes and fear? Not really. The miracle of Christmas is that God cared enough to send the very best, and that he continues to do so in the gifts now given to us in one another.

-Peter J. Gomes

The Work of the Church

Rev. Smathers

Affirmation of Public Decisions

Pastoral Blessing and Passing of the Peace

Commissioning Hymn No. 127 (Stanza One)

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

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 host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark!

The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Organ Postlude

“Postlude on ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’” ...arr. Frederick Swann

***Today is World Hunger Sunday.
An offering will be received at the doors at the close of worship.***