

## WELCOME!

We are honored you have joined us in worship. 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

### HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

Hands of Christ Christmas Signup Genius is on the website. Please deliver gifts to the Dining Room through today. All gifts should be wrapped, (as gift allows), with a temporary tag taped on the bottom with family letter, gender and age.

### STUDENT MINISTRY BARBECUE FUNDRAISER

Want to purchase the best BBQ in Rome? Looking for a stocking stuffer? To order, go to the church website and click on the link or use the QR code on FYI signs around the church. For a gift certificate contact Nick Georgian or Karen Garrett. Your order will be available for pickup on Saturday, February 11 between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### STUDENT PROGRESSIVE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

TODAY AT 4:00 P.M. UNTIL 9:00 P.M. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as we celebrate and anticipate the birth of the Savior! We will meet at 4:00 p.m. at FBC and then trolley to different homes for appetizers, dinner, desserts and gift swapping! For more information, please contact Nick Georgian.

### SILENT LORD'S SUPPER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 5:00 P.M. Communion will be served continuously from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with special instrumental music provided the entire hour. Please enter through the front doors of the sanctuary and come and go as you please. This is a perfect time to get away from the hustle and bustle of the season.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 11

8:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Meeting - Conference Room  
9:45 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Student Ministry Progressive Christmas Party

### Monday, December 12

10:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Brunch - Tlitha Formby's Home  
11:30 a.m. Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group - Red Lobster  
12:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting - Conference Room

### Thursday, December 14

7:00 p.m. The Edge (HS Seniors) - Georgian Home

For information on these and other activities see [www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org) or The Spire.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Kay Bratton on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Randy Bratton.

First Baptist Church, 100 East Fourth Avenue, Rome, GA 30161  
Phone: 706.291.6850 Website: [www.fbcrome.org](http://www.fbcrome.org)



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

## Walking in the Light Advent 2022

### THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

11:00 A.M.

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

#### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

"The Faithful Shepherd"...George Frederick Handel

#### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Nick Georgian

#### CAROL OF PRAISE NO. 102

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

#### LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Jeremy, Jill, Sealy, and Marlo Salter

Choral Introduction: "Christ, Be Our Light!"...arr. Joel Raney

Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth, we turn to You.

Make us Your own, Your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in Your Church gathered today.

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#### Congregational Response

During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:

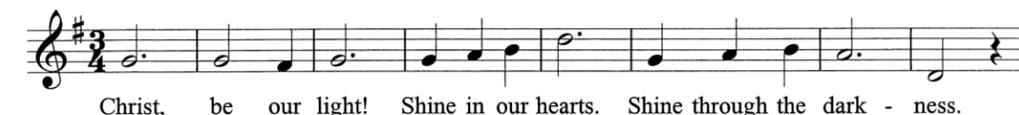
Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow, God's word speaks:

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning..

For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's word speaks:

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in Your Church gath-ered to - day.\_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“The Virgin’s Slumber Song” ...Max Reger

Mary Donahue

**READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Kristen Mathis, reader

James 5:7-10

7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord People: Thanks be to God!

**ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the new - born Son.  
 Praise the Spir - it, ev - er\_\_\_ with us. Praise the God - head, Three in\_\_\_ One.  
 Clear a path! Pre-pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

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**CAROL OF ASSURANCE NO. 107**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

(Children ages four through third grade may depart for Children’s Worship.)

**MORNING PRAYER** (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Tamara Tillman Smathers

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.

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

“Shepherd’s Joy” ...John Parker/Mark Hayes

Sanctuary Choir

One quiet night when all was still I saw a wondrous sight while tending sheep upon a hill one peaceful winter’s night: for in the sky there shone a light so glorious and bright. Behold, an angel did appear upon that special night. Glory to God! Glory to God on high! Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night.

The angel said, “Now, have no fear. I bring good news to all. A Savior now is born to you: your God has heard your call: in Bethlehem, in lowly manger lying in a stall. Go worship Him, the newborn King, before Him humbly fall.”

Glory to God! Glory to God on high!  
Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night.

Then angels quickly filled the sky with glory all around, praising God with joyful voice: I listened to their sound. Then all the shepherds went to where the Baby could be found, Then bowed in homage to the King, their faces on the ground. Glory to God! Glory to God on high!  
Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night.

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**SERMON**

“Walking in the Light: Be Patient”

Rev. Mathis

**CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 139**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

**CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE**

**PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP**

Julie McCormick

Compassionate God, You are our strength and our song, and You fill our hearts with joy.

May we give our offerings to You with gladness and joy.  
Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. Be the light that guides us, the compassion that inspires us and the presence that empowers us.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**ORGAN/PIANO OFFERTORY** “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”...Hayes/Gaspard

Meditation Text:

Teach us, O Lord, the disciplines of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work. —Peter Marshall

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

Keith A. Reaves

**AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS**

**PASTORAL BLESSING**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**BENEDICTION**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in Your Church gath-ered to - day.\_\_\_\_\_

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

“While By My Sheep” ... arr. Hugo Jungst

**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.

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP**

Children ages four through third grade are invited to Children’s Worship on the second floor of the Education Building. The children return to the sanctuary following worship.

David Brooks  
*Pastor*

Keith A. Reaves  
*Senior Associate/Minister of Worship*

Tamara Tillman Smathers  
*Minister of Education/Administration*

Kristen Mathis  
*Minister of Faith Development*

Gwen Stephens  
*Minister to Extended Family*

Nick Georgian  
*Interim Minister to Students and Missions*

Joan Hill, *Organist*

Beverly Harris, *Pianist*