## 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	ı
Name	
Spouse's Name	
Address	
CityState	
Zip Code	
E-mail	
Marital Status MarriedSingleWidow(er	)
Telephone	
Children at Home (Name/Age/Grad	
<ul> <li>I am new to Rome.</li> <li>I am interested in knowing more about First Baptist Church.</li> <li>I would like to talk with a minist</li> <li>I would like to know how to become a Christian.</li> <li>I am interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Church.</li> <li>I am a guest of:</li> </ul>	er

# THE WORK OF THE CHURCH -

## SILENT LORD'S SUPPER - TONIGHT BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 6 P.M.

Communion will be served continuously during the hour. You are welcome to stay as long as you want for a time of silence and reflection in this busy time of year. Please enter through the front doors of the Sanctuary.

### **COOL YULE CHRISTMAS**

Tonight from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. children will have their Christmas party at church while adult Sunday School classes enjoy their own Christmas parties.

### **COLLEGE MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

All college students are invited to attend a fun Christmas Gathering! We will meet Thursday at 6:45 p.m. at the church and carpool to Blossom Hill. We will end our time with a sweet treat at honeycream! Contact Nick Georgian for details.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24 at 5 p.m. The service will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 44 and the church YouTube Channel.

# STUDENT MINISTRY BBQ 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 p.m. and 5 p.m.

### THE 2023 DISCIPLINES DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Copies are available in the church office and by the elevator. *Disciplines* is an excellent guide for daily Bible reading and prayer.

# WEEK AT A GLANCE -

## Sunday, December 18

9:45 a.m. Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Silent Lord's Supper - Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Cool Yule Christmas

Adult Sunday School Parties

### Monday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Women of the Church Book Group - Mary Shotwell Smith's Home

### Thursday, December 22

6:45 p.m. College Ministry Christmas Party - Blossom Hill/honeycream

### Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

# Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

For information on these and other activities see www.fbcrome.org or The Spire.

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



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

Walking in the Light
Advent 2022

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**DECEMBER 18, 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

"A Christmas Pastorale"...Giuseppi Valentini/arr. E. Power Biggs

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Nick Georgian

CAROL OF PRAISE NO. 125

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE** Scotty, Ronda, Gatlin and Mylee Hancock

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.

# Congregational Response

In a world turned asunder by violence, Jesus says, "No more."

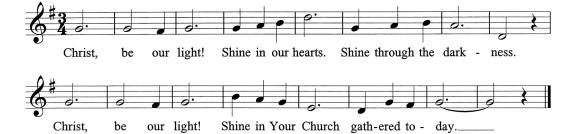
"As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you."

In a world where hurting people are too often neglected, Jesus says, "No more."

"As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you."

In a world where another's needs are too often overlooked, Jesus says, "No more."

"As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you."



SPECIAL MUSIC

Lee Ann Head

"Mary, Did You Know?"...Mark Lowry

### READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

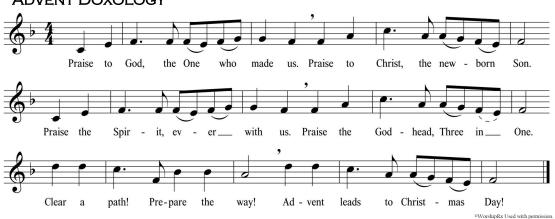
Matthew 1:18-25

David Brooks, reader

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

### **ADVENT DOXOLOGY**



**CAROL OF CHRISTMAS NO. 115** "The Hands That First Held Mary's Child" (Children ages four through third grade may depart for Children's Worship.)

## MORNING PRAYER (with the Lord's Prayer)

Kristen Mathis

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

Sanctuary Choir

"Love Can"...Rose Aspinall/Jay Rouse
Betty Holland, accompanist
A million stars will speak His name across the widening sky.
Between the dark and light of day we'll hear a Baby's cry.
Now Love's desire will break our chains by giving us a Lamb,
But what could ever restore us?

Love can!

The holy Child who's sleeping here upon a bed of hay
Takes on Himself a heart of flesh and give us Christmas day!
As angels sing of peace on earth and goodwill to all men,
O what could ever restore us?

I ove can!

O sing for joy to heaven's King, this gift of priceless worth. Great mercy shown to sinful man, He brings to us new birth. Now Love's desire will break our chains by giving us a Lamb, But what could ever restore us?

Love can!

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SERMON

Rev. Brooks

"Walking in the Light: Be Present"

CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 136

"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

## PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Maggie Keith, leader

Father, teach us how to listen for Your call in our lives.

Teach us how to be faithful stewards with the gifts You have entrusted to us.

Teach us how to use this offering as a source of Your ministry and mission.

Teach us to bow down and to spend time beholding the miracles all around us. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

**ORGAN/PIANO OFFERTORY** "The Coventry Carol"...arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard Meditation Text:

Jesus is God with us. Because he is Emmanuel, Jesus knows and understands you...he is able to show you who God is and what God is like. As Emmanuel, he seeks to remind you that he is *always* with you and you don't need to be afraid. He calls you to go in his name to incarnate God's love to others.

-Adam Hamilton

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

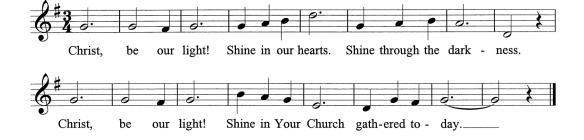
Keith A. Reaves

**AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS** 

PASTORAL BLESSING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

### BENEDICTION



ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"... arr. Diane Bish

### 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, peace, joy, love) are linked with the individual candles. Three of the candles are purple, representing royalty. One candle is pink and symbolizes joy. The white candle in the center of the wreath is 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.

## JOINING FIRST BAPTIST

We receive new members in several ways. Those who have never publicly acknowledged Christ as Lord join by public profession of faith. Baptism is scheduled for a later date. Members of other Baptist congregations may transfer their membership. We handle the details of contacting your current church. Members of other Christian faith traditions are invited to join by "statement of faith." Because other traditions vary in belief and practice, those joining by statement of faith are invited to speak with a minister before joining.

David Brooks, Pastor

Keith A. Reaves, Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

Tamara Smathers, Minister of Education Administration

Kristen Mathis, Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens, Minister to Extended Family

Nick Georgian, Minister to Students/Missions

Joan Hill, Organist Beverly Harris, Pianist