

## 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 December 11. 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.

### CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST CONCERT

Our annual concert featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, with the Youth Choir, Children's Choir and First Baptist Ringers is today at 4 p.m.

### SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon is Thursday, December 8 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Attendees are encouraged to bring a nativity set to display. The program will include special music from FBC music interns Sydney Godfrey and Matthew Becher and stories about the nativity sets. Cost of the lunch is \$10. Please make reservations in the church office no later than noon tomorrow.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 4

9:45 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
2:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra Rehearse - Sanctuary  
3:15 p.m. Youth and Older Children's Choirs Robe - Gym  
4:00 p.m. 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas at First Baptist Concert - Sanctuary

### Monday, December 5

9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Dining Room

### Wednesday, December 7

Last Wednesday Night until January  
5:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner  
5:45 p.m. Treble Makers and Music Makers Choirs meet in Choir Rooms  
6:00 p.m. Family Night Christmas Celebration - Fellowship Hall  
*(Special music from our two youngest children's choirs!)*

### Thursday, December 8

12:00 p.m. Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon - Fellowship Hall

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 loving memory of Libby on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Richard York.



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ROME, GEORGIA

### Walking in the Light Advent 2022

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 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/PIANO PRELUDE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"...arr. Joel Raney

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Kristen Mathis

### CAROL OF ADVENT NO. 79

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

### LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Jake Hager

**Choral Introduction:** "Christ, Be Our Light!"...arr. Joel Raney  
Longing for peace, our world is troubled. 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, God's light illumines a weary world. For any who have grown weary of waiting:

God speaks, "Peace be still."

For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

God speaks, "Peace be still."

For any whose lips have been silenced

God speaks, "Peace be still."



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.\_\_\_\_\_

**READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 3:1-12

Nick Georgian, reader

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ” 4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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!

**CAROL OF ASSURANCE NO. 132**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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

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

David Brooks

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

“Is He Worthy?”...arr. Dan Forrest  
Ashley Garner, Daniel Lynch, soloists

Do you feel the world is broken? (*We do.*)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (*We do.*)  
But do you know that all the dark  
won’t stop the light from getting through? (*We do.*)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (*We do.*)  
Is all creation groaning? (*It is.*)  
Is a new creation coming? (*It is.*)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (*It is.*)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (*It is.*)

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? (He is!)*

Does the Father truly love us? (*He does.*)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (*He does.*)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (*He does.*)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (*He does.*)

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.

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**SERMON**

Rev. Brooks

“Walking in the Light: Be Penitent”

**CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 148**

“What Child Is This”

**PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP**

Tamara Tillman Smathers

**PIANO/HANDBELL OFFERTORY**

“In A Manger”...arr. Joel Raney

**Meditation Text:**

To repent is to come to your senses. It is not so much something you do as something that happens. True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry," than to the future and saying, "Wow!"  
-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

**THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

Rev. Smathers

**AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS**

**PASTORAL BLESSING**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**BENEDICTION**

First Baptist Music Interns

“We Wish You A Merry Christmas”...arr. John Hugo

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

“Let All Together Praise Our God”...J.S. Bach

**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*