



# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
December 31, 2023

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Valerie Francia

## PRELUDE

*Pastorale on Adeste Fideles*

David Schelat  
(b.1955, American)

## \*INVOCATION

(\*If you are able, please stand)

Charlie Duke

## \*HYMN 117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

*ST. ANNE*

## \*THE PSALM

from Psalm 148

Valerie Francia

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

**Many: Praise God, sun and moon! Praise God, all you shining stars!**

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps!

**Many: Kings of the earth and all peoples! Princes and all rulers of the earth**

One: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**ALL: God's glory is above the heaven! Praise the Lord!**

## \*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Valerie Francia

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## TIME AS CHILDREN

Valerie Francia

(Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for the play space upstairs.)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Lord's Prayer ("debts") on hymnal page 896)

DJ Reed

## ANTHEM

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. by Patsy Ford Simms  
Lucy and Isaac Thompson, *duet*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

The little baby Jesus was born on Christmas Day.

A bright star in the heavens gave light to show the way. *Refrain*

The shepherds gathered 'round Him, this Child upon the hay.

Three wise men brought Him presents that glorious Christmas Day. *Refrain.*

## \*GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

DJ Reed

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*Blessing the Mess*

DJ Reed

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING OF GIFTS

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson  
arr. by Brenda Portman  
Lucy Thompson, *soloist*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
*In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

\*HYMN 242

Love Came Down at Christmas

*GARTAN*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Gloria / Iris*

- Michael Bedford  
(b.1949, American)

We pray for We pray for **Dave Lamkin, Beth Foster, Marlene Francis, Eva Kelly, Jill Damon, Betty Gerstler, Marilyn Marsh, Esther Floyd, Mervyn Juchartz, David Gregg, Mike Kelly, Chuck Suits, the Stotts family, Lovely Varghese, Paul Larson, Grange Burnside, the Sanford family, Mrs. Essie Slaughter, Simona Butler, John Rowe, and Fay Key.**

We welcome the **Rev. D.J. Reed** to the pulpit this morning. D.J., his wife Heather, and his two sons, Danny (17) and Lincoln (14), have been members at First Baptist since May 2023 and have been attending since the previous summer. D.J. served as the pastor of Chilson Hills Church (Howell, MI) for 11 years, and has served in other ministry positions for five other churches during a 25+ year career. In May 2022, D.J. left church ministry to begin a career in healthcare chaplaincy. Currently, he serves as a staff chaplain at Trinity Oakland Hospital (Pontiac). DJ is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Messiah University (B.A.). He and Heather have been married for 25 years and have enjoyed many experiences in 4 different states (Illinois, California, Texas and Michigan).

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR**

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The Reverend Dr. Paul Duke, *Pastor*

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Valerie Francia, *Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Coley Roberts, *Children's Choir Director*

Kate Gregg, *Nursery Caregiver*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*

**We're glad you're here!** Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.



You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.

Church service hearing aids are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall. We look forward to connecting with you!

**No formation classes for adults, youth, and children today and no children's choir.** Classes and activities resume on January 7.

**Children's Ministry.** All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant through 3 years). Children (through 5th grade) leave for the play space upstairs following Time as Children. You may pick up your children at 11:30 from the play space. If you would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

**Adult Formation Class in January.** During the month of January, Pastor Paul will be leading a discussion of *Everything Happens for A Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. We hope you'll join us for this conversation and time of connection each Sunday in January (11:30-12:30p). Books are available to purchase (\$15/book) at church; swing by the ministry station and pick one up this Sunday or next.

**Our next Shared Suppers evenings are January 13 and 14.** The Board of Care and Community sponsors this opportunity for our FBC Family to gather and get to know one another better. What better way to do that than around a table? We gather in smallish groups (6-8ish) in homes for Shared Suppers. The groups will be different every time so folks can interact with those they may not know so well. If you are interested in being on the list of participants, email Mary Davis or stop by the Ministry Station at church to leave your name and email. Being on the list only indicates interest, not a commitment to come. You will be contacted for availability about two weeks before each supper. Of course, everyone won't be able to come every time. Children/youth are welcome to participate. Shared transportation can also be arranged.

**Hymnals.** In the interest of both financial and environmental stewardship, we will return to use of our hymnals in January. There will be large print bulletins with hymns available.

**Un-decorating the sanctuary.** After the adult formation class in the lounge, please join the Board of Worship in taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.

Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code to the right.



### Calendar

January 1	New Year's Day (church office & buildings closed)
January 4	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
January 7	Classes and Activities resume @11:30a Un-decorating the Sanctuary @12:30p
January 10	Bible Study @1:00p
January 13 & 14	Shared Suppers
February 4	Annual Congregational Meeting @11:15a
February 5-16	Host Daytime Warming Shelter