

Hope



ORDER OF WORSHIP

1 December 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

WORDS OF PREPARATION: “The power of hope is made more palpable by the fragile circumstances of everyday life. A cancer diagnosis. The loss of job and home. A fight with friends or family. The rejection from a college. A divorce. The death of a loved one. But, often hope comes in small doses and flickering images. Signs that are fleeting and brief, and usually seem insignificant. Advent is a season in which we can cultivate a posture of waiting and watching with hope. It is hope that anchors us – it nourishes us, it sustains us, it keeps our eyes up.”

- Mihee Kim-Kort

GREETING

Xan Morgan & Rick Mixon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 25:1-10

LJ Brazier & Xan Morgan

Nan C. Merrill (*Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*)

One: To You, O Love, we lift up our souls; O Heart within our hearts, in you we place our trust. Let us not feel unworthy; Let not fear rule over us.

Many: Yes! Let all who open their hearts savor You and bless the earth!

One: Compel us to know your ways, O Love; instruct us upon your paths.

Lead us in your truth and teach us, for through You will we know Wholeness;

Many: we shall reflect your light both night and day.

One: We know of your mercy, Compassionate One, and of your steadfast love.

You have been with us from the beginning. Forgive the many times we have walked away from You, choosing to walk alone.

Many: With your steadfast love, once again, companion us along your way,

One: You are gracious and just, O Spirit of Truth, happy to guide those who miss their way; You enjoy teaching all who are open, all who choose to live in truth.

**Many: Your paths are loving and sure, O Holy One,
for those who give witness to You through their lives.**

PRELUDE

Hymnus "Creator alme siderum"
(Hymn: Creator of the stars of Night)

Nicolas Jacob Lemmens
(1823-2881, Belgian)

*OPENING PRAYER

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

LJ Brazier

*HYMN (see insert)

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mary Davis & Scott Diels

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

SONG OF ADVENT (see insert)

When God Is a Child (stanza 1)

MOON BEAMS

TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

(Children 5th grade and younger come forward. Following Time as Children, kids (through 1st grade) will head to Children's Ministry. On the first Sunday of the month, 2nd-5th graders remain in worship for Stay for the Service Sunday - S3!)

REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rick Mixon

Words of Reflection

Prayer

Words of Assurance

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

ANTHEM

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

arr. by John Ferguson

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,

Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, your love outpouring.
Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Rick Mixon

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*HYMN (see insert, stanzas 1 and 4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

SERMON

Hope Bubbles Up

Rick Mixon

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

Now we return to God a portion of that with which we have been blessed. In this moment and in this act, we pledge ourselves anew to responsible stewardship of our financial resources, our time, our talent and of the good earth we inhabit by God's grace.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

We Shall Prepare

- Carl J. Nygard, Jr.
Bonnie Kidd, *soprano*
Shin-Ae Chun, *piano*

A King will come in swaddled splendor,
A King above all earthly kings,
Descending from His heav'nly palace
To lowly earth on angels' wings.
The meek and humble will receive Him
Not in their pride, but through their prayer.
And He will bring them joy forever,
And for His coming we prepare.

We will await in humble patience,
In lines of service shall we stand;
And for the chance to bow in homage
We shall prepare with heart and hand.
As angels sing of joys uncommon
In songs to cheer the lonely earth,
We shall await the prophet's promise;
We shall prepare His holy birth.

Once as a child in Bethl'hem's manger
Once as a man on Calvary,
As loving Savior of His people
Again He comes to set us free.

In paths of peace His feet will travel;
His words of love will move the earth
And rule the hearts of all believers
Who now prepare His holy birth.

***DOXOLOGY**

What Child Is This? (Stanza 3)

GREENSLEEVES

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild,
Has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the child of Mary.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rick Mixon & Xan Morgan

Invitation to the Table O Antiphon for our Waiting (adapted from Maren Tirabassi)
The Bread *Rorate caeli desuper (Drop Down, Ye Heavens)* by B. Sanders
The Cup *Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus* by David Hurd
The Prayer of Blessing

***HYMN (Hymn 557, verse 1)**

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

DENNIS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

***HYMN (see insert)**

All Earth is Waiting

TAURÉ

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Thomas Bliss

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in gratitude for and in honor of this incredible earth,
of which we are each blessed to be a small part.*

~ Carolyn Hillebrand ~

We pray for Bob Reynolds, Rob Snyder, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Betty Gerstler, Marilyn Marsh, Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, John Milbourne, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Grange Burnside, John Rowe, and Fay Key.

Our Fellowship Offering this morning goes to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)**. RMMO is a congregational offering and a joint project of ABC-USA and MMBB. Collected annually in December from participating congregations, RMMO funds are distributed as "Thank You" checks to ABC-USA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. If you donate by check, please write it to FBC and indicate RMMO in the memo line. If a cash donation, please use the envelopes located in the pews. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Please join us after worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for coffee. We'd love to connect! There is no Formation Hour today; all programming resumes next Sunday.

Advent Devotionals are available at the ministry station.

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 Church School following Time as Children. If you would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

On the First Sunday of Each Month it's "S3 - Stay for the Service Sunday" when the 2nd-5th grade class will stay in worship for the whole service. This gives the kids an opportunity to experience and participate in the second half of worship. This is a valuable step in their faith formation as worshipers! They are invited to sit with Xan and their classmates during worship. Following worship, the 2nd-5th graders will attend Fellowship Time with their families until Children's Choir begins at 11:30.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets Sunday mornings during the Formation hour (11:30am-12:30pm) in the Youth Room directly below the sanctuary. We have fun together, eat snacks, talk about our lives and explore some exciting Old Testament stories and their real-life justice implications. We also plan to have a couple interfaith experiences this semester, exploring the other Abrahamic faiths of Judaism and Islam. If you would like more information about what's coming up for Youth Ministry or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Christina Alaniz (cnelaniz@umich.edu).

There's Room in this Inn. There's Room in this Inn. Join us this evening from 4-6 pm for our annual Advent event. Our activities this year will help us get ready to offer hospitality to our unhoused neighbors. We'll make cookies and muffins, string ornaments, tie blankets, wrap Christmas gifts, and decorate the space! We'll have dinner from Noodles & Company, too. We're looking forward to our time together.

Adult Formation for Advent. We will offer three opportunities to celebrate this sacred season on December 8 – Advent: A Time of Preparation, 15 – Advent Poetry and 22 – Carol Sing. Everyone is invited to share in these offerings.

Bake Sale! December 8th after church - come and pick out some homemade goodies for a donation to our ABW Missions funds. We contribute to local, state, national and international mission groups. This is our annual bake sale to collect funds for our mission groups. Hope you will be there to enjoy a great selection of cookies, candies, sweet breads, etc..

Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community. For over 15 years we have collected food, health, and household supplies for our friends in the Hikone housing community, one of the sites of Community Action Network. Thank you to all who have donated food and financial gifts! But keep in mind, please, that we only have ONE more Sunday after today to gather your donations!

We are providing for 30 families so please consider donating multiples of the same item and please donate individual family quantities: Kid-friendly foods: cereal, oatmeal, canned pasta, mac-and-cheese, fruit cups, etc. Food that isn't usually available in the food pantries: baking soda and powder, spices, sugar, cooking oil (12-16 oz), salad dressings. We also need financial donations to cover the many items that have been purchased already (e.g. 30 laundry detergents, 30 packages of toilet paper, 30 individual health and hygiene products, etc.)

Please mail your financial donation to the church before December 8 or place it in the offering plate with a notation it is for Hikone. (Please address the check/envelope to Sue Ellen Glover, First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington, Ann Arbor 48104). We need all donations by next Sunday, December 8. And contact Sue Ellen or the office if you are willing to help sort, pack, and deliver on Tuesday, December 10, starting at the church at 10:30 (done before 12:30). Thank you for your generosity!

Rotating Shelter - 4 volunteer spots to fill! During the cold winter months, the emergency overnight shelter at Delonis is not sufficient for the need. Area congregations host a weekly rotating shelter to fill the gap, so no one is sleeping outside in freezing temperatures. Our week for hosting begins on the evening of Monday, December 2, and goes through Monday, December 9. There are 3 volunteer opportunities each night: 1 evening shift (6:30-10:00pm) and 2 overnight shifts (6:30pm-7:30am and 9:45pm-8:00am). The overnight volunteers will each take a hosting shift (4 hours) and a sleeping shift in the Memorial Lounge (4 hours). Are you interested in serving for the first time and want to be paired with someone who has done it before? Let us know and we will find you an experienced partner. Thanks for being a part of this important ministry as one of our concrete ways of loving our neighbors as ourselves. You can sign up at fbca2.org/connect or the Ministry Station in the hallway. Questions? Connect with Kevin Morgan (ktmorgan@umich.edu).

Wednesday Bible Study. Join us for Bible study this Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:00pm. Pastor Rick leads the study which often includes good snacks, and always coffee and fellowship as we receive the gift of God's living word. We will be looking at Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, and Luke 3:7-18

The Gathering is our campus ministry on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30pm. It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pastor Rick Mixon. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Janice Stumpf, sign up at fbca2.org/connect, or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2).

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents "Celebrating Christmas with the World: with Stories and Carol Sing" this coming Friday, December 6, at noon. Arrangements of Christmas carols from different cultures by various composers will be performed by Shin-Ae Chun on the organ and the piano. Inspiring poems and stories will be read by Robbie Staple and Ed Parmentier. And we will also sing some carols together. This concert will be an opportunity for you to calmly prepare yourself for the hopeful and joyous season of Advent and Christmas. It is a free concert and open to all. Mark your calendar. Invite your friends and neighbors. Let's celebrate the season together.

The FBC Ladies' Book Club will next meet on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00pm to discuss *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. We will meet at Madeline Drake's home. Please reach out to Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg with any questions. All ladies are welcome.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Each year we decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias in honor/memory of those we love for the Christmas season. Poinsettias are \$20.00 each. The deadline to order is Monday, Dec 16. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you after the Festival of Lessons & Carols service on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias can be ordered online here, or you can use this form and drop it in the offering plate.

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

Please order _____ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services at \$20 each,
and list as such in the bulletin:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

From: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ as payment for the poinsettia(s).

Please have paid orders to the office by Sunday, December 15.

Thank you!



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



Calendar

December 1	Advent Workshop @4:00p
December 2-8	Overnight Rotating Shelter
December 6	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00 noon
December 8	AB Women's Ministries Bake Sale @11:15a
December 9	Daytime Warming Center begins
December 10	FBC Ladies' Book Club @7:00p
December 24	The Nativity: Family-friendly Christmas Eve @4:00p Festival of Lessons & Carols @7:30p

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the, Anishinabae people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*
Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications*
Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*
Michelle Ding & Charlie Duke, *Children's Choir*
Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*
Kat Becker, *Administrator*