

Advent

Second Sunday in



ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Advent

7 December 2025

GREETING

Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Jodylynn Brummett

One: Come, hear the truth sent from above,

Many: The truth of God, the God of love.

One: When we were heirs to endless woes,

Many: Then God the Lord did interpose.

One: And so a promise soon did run

All: That God would redeem us by the Son.

PRELUDE

*Reverie-Improvisation
on Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Robert L. Bedell
(1909-1974, American)

OPENING PRAYER

Jodylynn Brummett

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Julie, Matt, Galen, and Aoife Mayotte

O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
far and nigh; to us the path of know - ledge show and
cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re -
joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 72

Jodylynn Brummett

One: May righteousness and justice reign,

Many: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

One: Defend the needy throughout the world;

Many: Rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

One: Bless the Lord, who alone does wondrous deeds!

**Many: And blessed be God's glorious name,
may all the earth be filled with glory.**

All: Amen and amen.

***HYMN 198**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15:4-13

Jodylynn Brummett

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Christ, Be Our Light (refrain)

Bernadette Farrell

TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

(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!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bill Foster

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

ANTHEM

Advent Meditation

- Michael Larkin

Come, O come, Emmanuel, ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here, 'til the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, Israel.

Savior of the nations, come. (Come, Thou day-spring from on high,)
Virgin's Son, make here Your home. (Cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.)
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, (That the Lord chose such a birth.)
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, Israel.

Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous Child, (Come, O come, Emmanuel,)
Of the Virgin undefiled. (Ransom captive Israel,)
Mighty God and Mary's son, (Eager now His race to run)
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, Israel.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Bill Foster

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Giving Tree God

Bill Foster

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Love Came Down at Christmas

David L. Shove

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bill Foster

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Bill & Beth Foster

Invitation to the Table

The Bread *Meditation on Conditio Alme Siderum* by Alec Rowley

The Cup *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* by Shin-Ae Chun

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 100

God, Whose Love Is Reigning O'er Us

LAUDA ANIMA

BENEDICTION

Bill Foster

POSTLUDE

People, Look East!

Krisina Langlois
(b.1956, American)

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of my Mom & Dad.*

~ Julie Smith ~

We pray for **Bob Reynolds, Jon VanderVliet, Rick Zimmerman, Erica Diels, Chuck Suits, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Betty Doman, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Dakota Lawson, Helga Mortensen, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**

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.



We welcome Rev. William (Bill) Foster to the pulpit this morning. Bill Foster is retired as the former Vice President of Spiritual Care with Trinity Health of Livonia, Michigan. Prior to that, Bill was Director and Regional Director of Spiritual Care for Trinity Health Southeast Michigan. He founded the CPE program accredited at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor (now Trinity Health Ann Arbor). A board-certified chaplain, Bill is an ACPE Certified Educator ("CE"). He is an ordained minister and endorsed chaplain and chaplain educator with the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. Bill is married to the Rev. Elizabeth (Beth) Jordan Foster. They have a daughter, Hannah, and a son, Nick, a daughter-in-law, Anisa, and grandchildren, Liam, Owen, and Audrey. Bill will also be preaching next Sunday!

Join us downstairs after worship for fellowship time. We'd love to connect!

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 - 3 years). Children through 5th grade leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Children's Choir (PreK-5th grade) meets from 11:30-noon. You may pick up your children at 11:30 from their Church School classrooms, at 12:00 from the choir room, or at 12:30 when our formation hour ends.

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.

The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12. Join us in the Youth Room (in the library wing below the sanctuary) from 11:30-12:30 for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. This fall we will focus on the subjects of hospitality, emotions, relationships, and justice in the Bible and our Christian faith. We will also have some fun afternoon/evening weekend activities! For more information, please contact Jillian Mast (jillian@fbca2.org).

Adult Formation Class. For the next three Sundays, the second hour in the Memorial Room will be discussing Advent from a variety of perspectives. Today's class is titled *Watching and Waiting*, led by Grace VanderVliet. Advent is a time of waiting -- waiting for a special gathering of family or friends, waiting for gifts, waiting for Christmas Day. We can feel the build up. As Christians, we have been called to look for signs of God's presence around us as we wait. During this Second Hour session, we'll consider images of people waiting. We'll practice looking closely, we'll imagine, and we'll wonder together about God's reincarnation and what we're watching for in the meantime.

Sunday Young-Ish Adult Gathering. If you consider yourself to be a young-ish adult (roughly 20s - 40s), there's a new small group gathering for you in the Campus Center living room on the first and third (and sometimes fifth) Sundays of the month after Fellowship time (11:30a). We'll plan to attend congregational meetings. Come share about your week and what's happening in your life, discuss current events, or just relax and listen. On the first Sunday of the month, we plan to share a meal together. Questions? Contact Meg Suell (meghansuell@gmail.com), Valerie Francia (valeriefrancia@gmail.com), or LJ Brazier (lbrazier@umich.edu).

Bible Study. Interested in studying the Bible? Join the Wednesday group from 1-2p in the campus center living room.

The Gathering is our campus ministry during the academic year. 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 Mary Davis for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Mary Davis (madrad@umich.edu), sign up at fbca2.org/connect, or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room. We will meet this week (Dec 10) then start back up after the break.

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 already donated food and financial gifts! But we have gathered only half of the amount of financial donations we received the last two years. If you are able, today is the last day to receive donations and we would be grateful for a check in the offering plate (with a notation that it's for Hikone) or you may hand a donation to Sue Ellen.

We would love to have you join us on Tuesday, December 9, starting at the church at 10:30 as we sort the donations, pack everything in boxes, then transport things to Hikone and unload and carry things into the Community Center. We will be done by 12:15. - Sue Ellen (gloverse@hotmail.com)

ABWM Bake Sale Dec 14th. We are planning a Bake Sale Dec 14th to help support our ABWM mission projects for the year! If you are willing and able, please let Carolyn Grapentine (csgrape@aol.com) know if you would like to bring something! Our Bake Sale is based on donations, so no need to price your items. If you are looking to pick up some goodies for December - make sure you are here on December 14th!!

The FBC Ladies' Book Club next meets on Tuesday, December 16th, 6:30p at Maryann Bowen's house. We will be discussing *Clear* by Carys Davies. The book after that will be *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. Happy Reading!

Christmas Eve at 3:30p: The Nativity Story. Come as you are to this simple, informal, family-friendly service. We'll sing carols and listen to the Christmas story. The service will last an hour.

Christmas Eve at 7:30p: A Festival of Lessons & Carols. First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor presents a Festival of Lessons and Carols, modeled on the world-famous carol service from King's College in Cambridge, England. Come hear the Christmas story, join in singing beloved Christmas carols, and enjoy beautiful music from our choir and organist.

The Pastoral Search Committee met on Monday, December 1. Most of our time was spent putting together an agenda for in-person second interviews. We worked on dates and logistics, and began putting together second interview questions. Our team is very conscious of the Pastor's job description and the congregation's priorities for pastoral leadership from the church profile as we design questions. We also worked on screening some additional candidates who are not far into the process yet. We will continue to work steadily through the Advent and Christmas season and will keep the congregation updated. As we watch and wait in this season of Advent, let us know the hope of waiting for the person(s) God is calling to be our next Pastor(s).

So You Were Wondering.... Look for this new item in the Newsletter. If you have questions about how our church is governed, how decisions are made, who is responsible for what etc., probably someone else is wondering that too. Send questions to Mary Davis (madrada@umich.edu) who will find the answers and put them in the Newsletter.

Upcoming Change from Unity FI Solutions. We have been using a legacy platform on the church website for making credit card payments to the church, including recurring payments. It is being shut down. On December 16th, a new link will be added to access the new platform. If you have used the old link, you will need to create a new account and set up a new recurring payment. You can access your existing account until December 16th and delete your old account if you choose. Otherwise, the information is securely archived for a certain amount of time then destroyed. Reach out to Kat (office@fbca2.org) if any questions or concerns.

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 \$21.00 each. The deadline to order is Monday, Dec 15. 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 at fbca2.org/connect or you can use the form below and drop it in the offering plate.

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM	
Please order _____ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services at \$21 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 Monday, December 15.	
Thank you!	



Volunteers Needed for Fellowship Time. Hosting fellowship time is a fun, low-pressure way for families and individuals to serve the church! If it is your first time, we are more than happy to pair you with someone as you learn the ropes. Sign up here and email Christine Hwang if you have any questions.

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.



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 9	Hikone Sorting/Delivery @10:30a
December 10	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p
December 11	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
December 14	ABWM Bake Sale @11:15a
December 24	Nativity Story @3:30p Festival of Lessons & Carols @7:30p

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Rev. Rolf Bouma, *Associate for Worship Planning*

Revs. Beth and Bill Foster, *Associates for Pastoral Care*

Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*

Michelle Ding & Charlie Duke, *Children's Choir*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*