

Advent

Third Sunday in



ORDER OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

14 December 2025

GREETING

Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Celeste Weissinger

One: We rejoice in the God who does wondrous things,

Many: who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

One: Let us worship now with joy,

Many: In confidence that God will bring peace to all creation.

PRELUDE

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, BWV 648

Johann Sebastian Bach

(My Soul Magnifies the Lord)

(1685-1750, German)

OPENING PRAYER

Celeste Weissinger

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Amanda, Luke, and Jack Shutko

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spi-rits by thy
jus - tice here; dis-perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
death's dark sha - dows put to flight. Re - joice! Re -
-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 146

Celeste Weissinger

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

Many: whose hope is in the Lord their God.

One: Who made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

Many: who keeps faith forever.

One: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

Many: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

One: The Lord watches over the immigrant;
Many: God upholds the orphan and the widow.
All: Praise the Lord!

***HYMN 214** (vv. 1-2) Savior of the Nations, Come *NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND*
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-10 Celeste Weissinger
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 5th grade) will leave for Church School.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Bill Foster
The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

ANTHEM *An Advent Reflection* - Joseph M. Martin

In the shadows of our waiting, in the stillness of our night,
In the shadows, we are listening for the music of your light.
Now into our fragile longing, we lift our voice and we pray.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, sing into our lives today.
In the quiet of our worship, in the whisper of our prayers.
Lord, we are yearning for assurance, and new hope for our despair.
With each candle's golden flicker, we cry to you in faith.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, heal our wounded heart today.
Come, Promised One! Come, and fill this place.
How we long for your embrace. Come, live in our praise!
In the rising of our spirits, in the beauty of your love.
We find mercy, we find comfort, strength to lift our eyes above.
Now we see your star before us, teach us to follow and obey.
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come, shine upon our world today.
Come, sing into our night. Come, heal our wounded hearts.
Come, shine upon our world today.

***GOSPEL READING** Luke 1:46b-55 Bill Foster
One: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Astounded!

Bill Foster

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERING OF GIFTS

The People that Walked in Darkness
from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Isaac Thompson, *baritone*

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that
Dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined

***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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

***HYMN 216**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Gretchen Sanewsky

***BENEDICTION**

Bill Foster

POSTLUDE

O Day of Peace
(Tune: Jerusalem)

Mark Sedio
(b.1954, American)

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
with gratitude and love for our church family.*

~ Carolyn Hillebrand, Suzanne Knight, and Nancy Paul ~

We pray for **Dee Drake, 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, Betty Frieswyk, Tommi Orlando, Dakota Lawson, Helga Mortensen, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**



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 14	ABWM Bake Sale @11:15a
December 17	Bible Study @1:00p
December 18	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
December 24	Nativity Story @3:30p
	Festival of Lessons & Carols @7:30p

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. We will welcome David Suell to the pulpit next Sunday.

Join us downstairs after worship for fellowship time. We'd love to connect! The American Baptist Women's Ministries has baked goods and gently-used Christmas decorations for sale. And the Board of Care & Community has Christmas cards for our shut-ins, so please come and add your holiday greetings for those that can't be with us in person.

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.

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 today and next Sunday, the second hour in the Memorial Room will be discussing Advent from a variety of perspectives. Today's focus is **For the Time Being: Advent Auden.** In the tradition of the much-missed pandemic-era FBC poetry group, during this session we will read and discuss selections from "For the Time Being," a long Christmas oratorio by the greatest English-language twentieth-century Christian poet after Eliot: W. H. Auden.

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 (madrada@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. **The Gathering is on break and will resume in January.**

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.

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.

The Pastoral Search Committee met on Monday, December 8. We spent our time finalizing questions for second round in-person interviews. The candidates who passed all the prior screenings are advancing to in-person interviews scheduled for January. Please keep us, the church, and the candidates in your prayers!

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 (fbca2.org/connect) 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.

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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