First Sunday in Advent
November 29, 2026

Hope



ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wake up, you sleepy Christians!
Many: The night is gone. The day is here.
One: Pay attention, you distracted people!
Many: The Holy One will show up among us when we least expect it.
One: Be ready, you unsuspecting mortals!
Many: God is already at work in the world.
ALL: Let us worship and serve God together.

PRELUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645* Johann Sebastian Bach
(Awake, the Voice Is Calling Us) (1685-1750, German)

***OPENING PRAYER** Astrid Beck

***HYMN** (see insert) *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming* *PLEADING SAVIOR*

***ADVENT RESPONSIVE READING** Astrid Beck

One: In a world of war, famine, and disease, where children grow up as orphans, where families go hungry, and entire regions face destruction by illness, God, we call upon you to come.
Many: In a world filled with dread, we dare to hope.
One: In this season of Advent, we call upon you, Lord of Hope, to come. We await the birth of the Christ-child, the coming of God into our lives in a new way.
Many: Come, Emmanuel and fulfill our hopes.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Dana & Paul Larson

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9 Astrid Beck

One: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

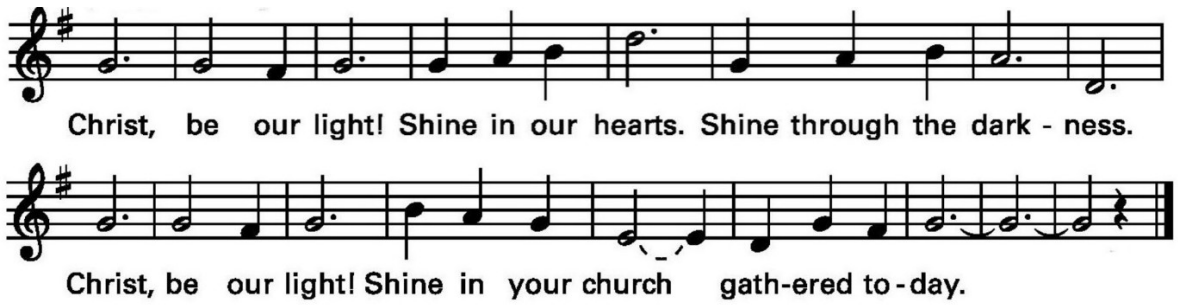
ANTHEM *An Advent Reflection* Joseph M. Martin

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** Mark 13:24-37 Pastor Laura

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

(Children in 6th grade and younger come forward. Following Time as Children, kids will go to Children's Ministry. Grown-ups will pick up kids from their classrooms after worship.)

SERMON *Expectant Hope* Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #206** (see insert) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*
(Collecting of prayer cards) *HOUSTON*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Laura
The Lord's Prayer ("debts" – hymnal page 896)

OFFERING OF GIFTS *We Shall Prepare* Carl Nygard
(Tune: *POOR WAYFARING STRANGER*) Bonnie Kidd, soprano

Jesus will come in swaddled splendor, a King above all earthly Kings.
Descending from His heavenly 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 Bethlehem'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** *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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Pastor Laura
Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

***HYMN #202** (see insert) *People, Look East* *BESANÇON*

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Laura

POSTLUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* Heinrich Schmidt
(1904-1988, Austrian)

*Please stand in body or spirit

The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
with gratitude for all educators.
Thank you for helping us learn and grow!

~ The VanderVliet family ~

We pray for **Joyce Robbins, David Robbins, Noreen Wolcott, Grange Burnside, Jon VanderVliet, Mary Margaret Hatt, Erica Diels, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Helga Mortensen, Cindy Okarski, Greg DuBois, Keith Maurer,** and **Beth Granberry.**

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.

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 through 3 years) upstairs. All children in 6th grade and younger, leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Please pick up your children (4 yrs through 6th grade) after worship to join you for Fellowship Time. There is supervised play upstairs in the Play Space for families who choose to stay for adult formation. If you are visiting and would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

Youth Group. All students in grades 7-12 are welcome to join the youth group on Sundays. We gather in the Youth Room from 11:30a-12:30p for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. On **December 20**, let's celebrate the season together by heading to Kerrytown for the Artisan's Market and treats. We'll leave right after church and return to church at the end of Adult Formation (11:15a - 12:30p). Church will provide the treats, but bring your pennies to buy that last-minute,

artistic, token of love for someone special (like your mom) if you like. For more information, contact Pastor Laura (laura@fbca2.org) or Robbie Stapleton (robbiestapleton@gmail.com).

Adult Formation. How can the arts of music, poetry, and storytelling deepen your experience of Advent? Through an investigation of a few key works in various media, and maybe a writing exercise or two, Sorbie Richner and Phil Christman will help you to anticipate the incarnation of God in the birth of Christ from, hopefully, a few angles that will be new to you.

Countdown to Christmas! We look forward to gathering tonight from 4-6 pm for Countdown to Christmas, our annual intergenerational Advent event. We'll enjoy a catered meal from Fed Up Ministries and create together in preparation for Christmas. Questions? Please contact, Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community. For over 17 years we have collected food, hygiene, and household supplies for our friends in the Hikone housing community, one of the sites of Community Action Network. We are grateful for those of you who have donated financially or with food, household supplies, books, and hygiene items. Non-food items are not covered by SNAP benefits and your efforts help the families stretch their funds to provide for the school break when children are home and a little extra for the holidays (and beyond).

Only one Sunday remains to bring your donations or offer your financial help. Please remember to bring your food and household donations next Sunday or to mail your financial donation to the church or place it in the offering plate with a notation it is for Hikone. (Please address the check and envelope to Sue Ellen Glover, First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington, Ann Arbor 48104)

On December 13, during fellowship times, you will all have an opportunity to SHOW LOVE by helping us sort and box all these donations! And if you are available, we can certainly use your help on Tuesday, December 15, after the Christmas concert (1:30-ish – 2:30) to deliver all these boxes of LOVE to the Hikone Community Center. Contact Sue Ellen (gloverse@hotmail.com) if you are able to help. Thank you for your continued generosity!!

ABWM Bake Sale! Sunday Dec 6th - during fellowship time. One and all, kids of all ages - don't miss our Annual Bake Sale. We have some great bakers among our congregation! This is the one ABWM fundraiser for their local and statewide mission giving. So please come with a little extra cash and pick out some great goodies for yourself, your family or even for your friends and neighbors. We look

forward to sharing our gift of baking with you. See you Dec 6th! - If you have any questions - call, text or talk with me at church, Carolyn Grapentine (csgrape@aol.com).

FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club. The FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club will next meet on Tuesday, December 8th at 2pm at Toni Burton's home. We will discuss Absolution by Alice McDermott. We hope you will be able to join us at our new winter time slot. Please contact Janice Stumpf (jlstumpf@umich.edu) or Mary Gregg (mcooper@patientfocussystems.com) with any questions.

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series will celebrate Winter, Advent and Christmas with a concert "Poems and Music for Winter and Christmas" on Tuesday, December 15 at noon in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. Shin-Ae Chun on the piano will be joined by Susan Schilperoort as a reader to offer a seasonally inspiring concert. The program includes Poems by Oliver, Cummings, Herrick, Field, Pickthall, Lewis and more along with music by Grieg, Mendelssohn, Rutter, Beach, Lyadov and more. It will be a meaningful way to celebrate this beautiful season. Mark your calendar! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Christmas Eve at 3:30p: A Nativity Story. Come as you are to this simple, informal, family-friendly service. We'll sing carols and listen to the Christmas story with special music from our Children's Christmas Ensemble. The service will last less than 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.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study. Anyone is welcome to join our Bible Study from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the Lounge. Pastor Laura will lead a discussion of the lectionary readings for the Sunday in two weeks.

You are invited to Tea with Pastor Laura! Let's share our stories of life and faith over a cup of tea! Meet up at your favorite coffee shop, visit in the FBCA2 office, or gather in your home. To sign up, go to the link at fbca2.org/connect and find a time that works for you on the calendar. When you sign up, please let Pastor Laura know where you'd like to meet.

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinaabe 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.

Calendar

November 29	Worship Service @10:00a
	Countdown to Christmas @4:00p
December 1	Executive Council @7:00p
December 2	Bible Study @1:00p
	Budget Committee @7:00p
December 3	Choir Rehearsal @7:15p
December 6	Worship Service @10:00a
	AB Women's Ministries Bake Sale @11:15a
December 15	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00noon
December 24	Nativity Story @3:30p
	A Festival of Lessons & Carols @7:30p

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Rev. Laura Harris-Adam, *Senior Pastor*
Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*
Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*
Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*
Kat Becker, *Administrator*
Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*
Lee Foley, *Buildings & Grounds*