

# The Worship of God

January 1, 2017

The First Sunday of Christmas

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## The Gathering

*“Come now and see for yourselves,. God is alive in our midst and begins life anew even among us. Today we celebrate the beginning of new life in Christ through baptism. Today we welcome Ava Leigh Fulbright into the family of faith and the church of Jesus Christ. Come let us worship our God!*

Early Announcements and Preparing for Worship

Jim Tate

Prelude “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Jeanne Shaffer

Choral and Congregational Introit “Shall We Gather at the River”

arr. Freeman

## Call to Worship

Harrison Fulbright

Leader: We are a people of the water.

**People: We worship a God whose love flows through the water.**

Leader: Through the waters of baptism we are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God’s new creation.

**People: We are made to share in Christ’s Royal Priesthood.**

Leader: Today, my sister Ava Leigh will be baptized in the water.

**People: May the waters of baptism be a sign of God’s love for Ava Leigh**

Leader: As she is baptized in water and sealed by the Spirit

**ALL: And cleansed by the blood of Christ our King.**

Hymn No. 758

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

Opening of the Bible

Ava Leigh Fulbright

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ethan Fulbright

## Family Introductions and Symbols of Baptism

Choral and Congregational Response “Shall We Gather at the River”

arr. Freeman

## The Baptism of Ava Leigh Fulbright

Hymn of Praise No. 2

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

NICAEA

The Children’s Time

Sarah Hall

Christian Greetings

Vinnon Williams

Old Testament Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Hymn No. 370

“God of Our Life”

Sandon

Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

O Wondrous God, How Great Thou Art

Jeanne Shaffer

Doxology

*Praise God the source of life and birth.*

*Praise God the Word, who came to earth.*

*Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.*

*All glory, honor to God’s name! Amen.*

Special Recognition

Jim Honeycutt

Morning Prayer

Gospel Lesson

John 3: 1-17

Anthem

“Jesus Is My Shepherd”

Schram

Sermon

“The Best Place to Start”

Dr. Ray Howell III

Hymn No. 509

“O, How I Love Jesus”

O, HOW I LOVE JESUS

Congregational Benediction

To the Tune of Amazing Grace

*Through Christ you are a child of God,  
who dearly loves us all.*

*Go forth in peace to share God’s love;  
Rise up to heed God’s call.*

Postlude

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Gordon Young

*Today’s Lay Reader is Jim Skotthy*

## Christian Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Alice Tysinger who died on December 28.

Musicians for today’s service

Beverly Khemlani—Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod;  
With it's crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God

Sing Refrain twice : Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,  
Lay we every burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver,  
And provide a robe and crown.

Sing Refrain again twice

### 2017 Birthday Banquet

The 27th Annual Birthday Banquet will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required for the event. They will be accepted later this week in the church office and on Sundays prior to the banquet. You will need to make payment for the meal when you make your reservation. The cost of the meal will be \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children with a \$25.00 family limit. Contact Wendy Walker if you are willing to help decorate or serve for the banquet.

### Dream Teams Update

The Dream Teams will begin their exciting journeys this month. The four teams identified in our Dream analysis from last year will be meeting as shown below. If you would like to be involved with any of the teams but have not previously indicated an interest, please join us at the scheduled time and learn more about that team. All meetings will be in the Fellowship Hall and are scheduled to last an hour. We invite each of you, high school to senior adult, to join us. Worship Enrichment Team - Sunday, January 8 - 8:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall  
Technology Team - Sunday, January 8 - 2:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall  
Missional Leadership Team - Sunday, January 22 - 8:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall  
WOW (Win Over the World) for Jesus Team - Sunday, January 22 - 2:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

**No Youth Activities Today—Youth activities resume on January 8, 2017.**

**Extended Sessions: January 1: Bed Babies:** M/M Dale Lambeth **Toddler/2 Year Olds:**

M/M Dave Thornhill **3 and 4 Year Olds:** Tina Wall and Lily Thornhill

**January 8: Bed Babies:** Libby Foster, Courtney Foster **Toddler/2 Year Olds:** Christy Clark

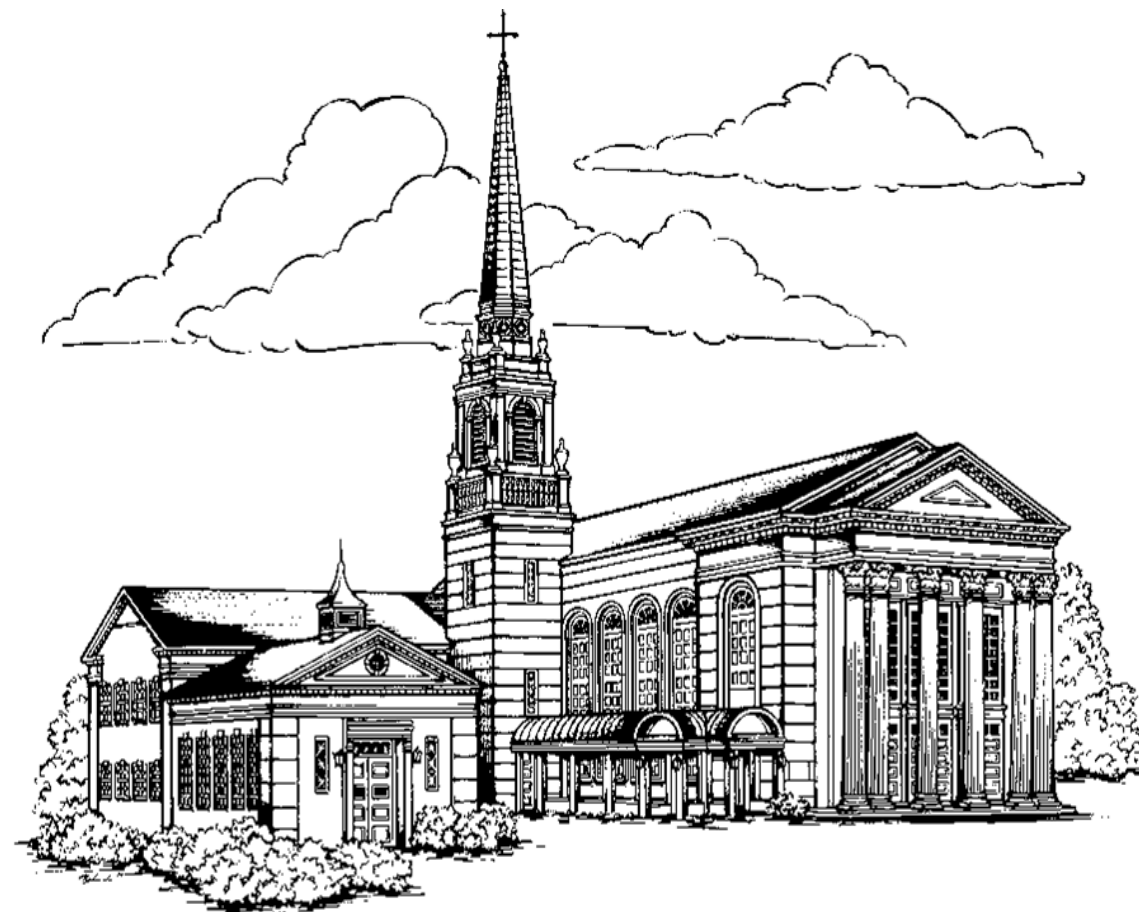
**3 and 4 Year Olds:** Anna Phillips and Kacie Beck

e-Mail: [fbclxington@fbclx.org](mailto:fbclxington@fbclx.org).

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# First Baptist Church Lexington, N.C.



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TOMMY WILSON  
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PAUL FREEMAN  
Minister of Music

JEAN ASHLEY  
Martha Best Children's Center Director