

# *The Worship of God*

December 24, 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

## The Gathering

“O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.”  
Phillips Brooks

## Early Announcements

**Prelude** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. Paul Manz

**Choral Introit** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. Freeman  
Opening of the Bible Ella Rae Howell

**Call to Worship** Zoey Mize

Leader: We gather to celebrate the promise of peace.

**People: We gather to worship the God of all creation.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate God with us.

**People: We gather to worship Emmanuel.**

Leader: We gather to sing praises to our heavenly Lord.

**People: Noel! Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Carol No. 162** “The First Noel, the Angel Did Say” THE FIRST NOEL

## The Children’s Time

## Christian Greetings

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath** Jason, Katie, Ava Jane, Annie and Lucy  
Scott Hartley, Bubba and Kelly Wright

**Congregational Response** “The Advent Candles” CRADLE SONG

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;*

*A candle of Hope in December’s dark night.*

*While Angels sing blessings from heav’n’s starry sky,*

*Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.*

*A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.*

*For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.*

*A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;  
A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy.*

*Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,  
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

*A candle is burning, a candle of love;  
A candle to point us to heaven above.*

*A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;  
For Jesus is bringing God’s Love to our earth.*

## Morning Prayer

**Carol No. 151** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” GO TELL IT

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 2: 1-12

**Anthem** “Every Valley” Drennan

**Riverdale Narrative** “He Laid Down His Sweet Head” Dr. Ray N. Howell III

**Solo** “Away in a Manager” William J. Kirkpatrick

**Carol No. 146** “Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”  
ANTIOCH

**Offertory Prayer** Tobin Shepherd

**The Offertory** “Old French Carol” arr. Paul Manz

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## Doxology

Gustav Holst

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yes, what can I give him—Give my heart.

## Choral Benediction

“Silent Night”

Mohr

## Postlude

“We Three Kings of Orient”

arr. Albin C. Whitworth

**Today’s Lay Reader is Jim Skotthy**

### Musicians for Today’s Service

Beverly Khemlani, Organist

Brannon Gilliam, Soloist

Sanctuary Choir

### Christian Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Marc Frye and his family in the death of his mother, Doris Frye, of Lexington on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: to Jim Tate and his family in the death of his sister, Sheri Taylor, of Raleigh, on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, and to Jennifer Boyle and her family in the death of her grandfather, William Arthur Simmons, of Taylorsville on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

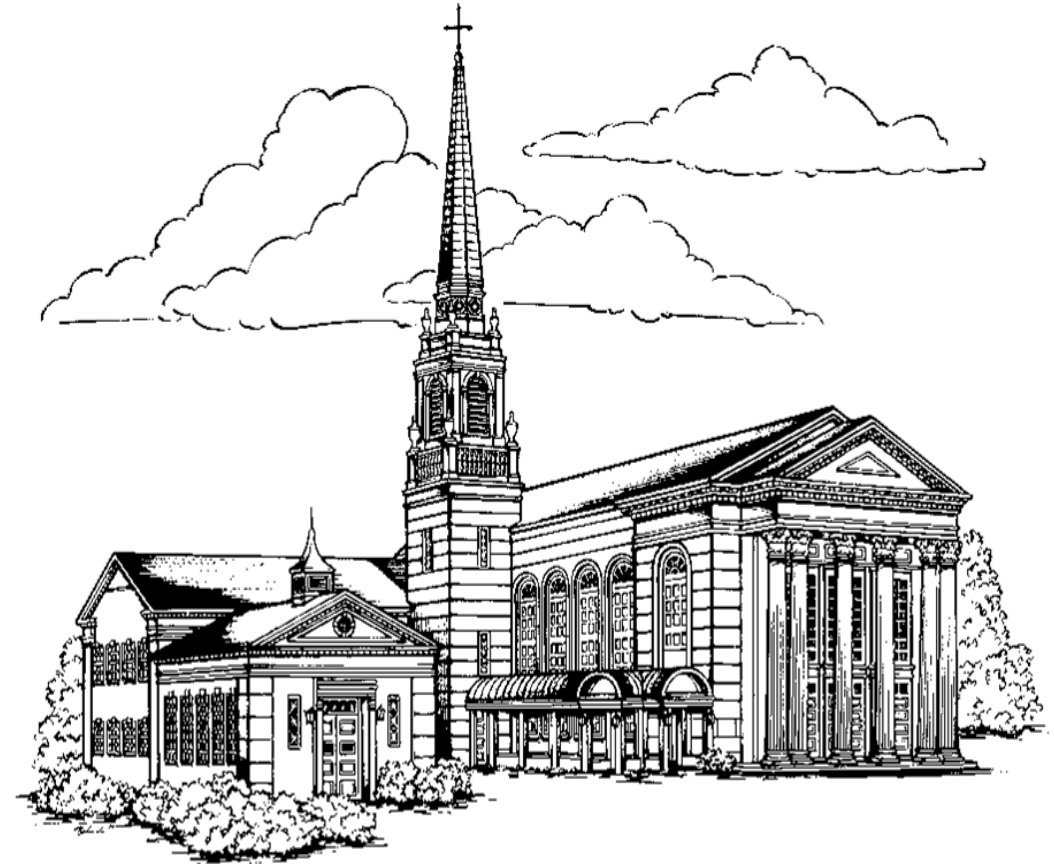
### Candlelight Communion Service

Tonight’s service begins at 5:30 p.m. The downstairs doors by the fellowship hall will be locked at 5:15 p.m. for security reasons. We will be receiving a special offering to help offset the budget deficit.

### 2018 Birthday Banquet

The Birthday Banquet will be Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be on sale the first of the year.

# First Baptist Church Lexington, NC



**RAY N HOWELL III**  
Senior Minister

**JIM SKOTTHY**  
Business Administrator

**MEAGAN SMITH**  
Associate Minister

**PAUL FREEMAN**  
Minister of Music

**TOMMY WILSON**  
Associate Minister Emeritus

**JEAN ASHLEY**  
Martha Best Children’s Center