



# WELCOME TO RICHMOND'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2709 Monument Avenue • Richmond, VA 23220 • 804-355-8637 • fbrichmond.org

December 18, 2022 • 11 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Perhaps our loneliness can never be filled with even the best of human love. Maybe the longing for human love is just the beginning, and the longing for God is always the end.*

—Susan E. Isaacs

## THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Ann Carter

## PRELUDE

*“A Child Is Born”*  
First Ringers; Eunice Kim, piano

Janet Linker and Jane McFadden

## CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Mary Sue Gast)*

Ann Carter

Leader: We started with the frail light of a single candle, a flame called Hope that dared to pierce through the darkness of sin and despair.

**People: And then we lit the candle of Peace, that gentle and persistent fire that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.**

Leader: Last Sunday the nearness of Christ's coming lifted our spirits. We began to feel the first, tingling shivers of Christmas joy, and lit a candle in celebration.

**People: Today, with hearts full of hope and peace and joy, we light a candle for the gift of love that was and is Christmas.**

Leader: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son ...”

**Unison: O come, let us adore him.**

## HYMN No. 124, “The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

*We invite children to the steps during stanza 3 for the Children's Sermon.*

<b>LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE</b>		Hess family
<b>CHILDREN’S SERMON</b>		Amanda Lott
<b>THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, <i>Isaiah 7:10-16, (Pew Bible OT page 779)</i></b>		Allison Collier
<b>CALL TO PRAYER, HYMN NO. 131</b>	<i>“In the Bleak Midwinter”</i> Stanza 4	CRANHAM
<b>PASTORAL PRAYER</b>		Lynn Turner
<b>HYMN NO. 126, “<i>Angels From the Realms of Glory</i>”</b>		REGENT SQUARE
<b>SHARING THE FAITH</b>		Rancy Zarr
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>“Angels Visit When We Sing”</i> One Accord	Tom Trenney
<p>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  Angels visit when we sing and the morning stars rejoice,  We can hear them echoing in each faithful heart and voice:  Alleluia!</p> <p>Angels visit when we sing as they did at Jesus’ birth  And the music that they bring links the heavens with the earth!  Alleluia! Gloria!</p> <p>Angels visit when we sing and remind us with their praise  Sin and death have lost their sting! For the crucified is raised!  Alleluia!</p> <p>Angels visit when we sing and our hearts are touch by fire,  As our hymns and anthems ring with the sound of heaven’s choir.  Alleluia!</p>		
<b>DOXOLOGY</b>		VENI EMMANUEL
<p><i>Children in grades 1-3 are invited to children’s worship in suite 220. A leader will meet children  at the door near the piano and return them to worship during the final hymn.</i></p> <p>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p>		
<b>PRAYER OF GRATITUDE</b>		Matthew Hensley
<b>THE GOSPEL, <i>Matthew 1:18-25, (Pew Bible NT page 1)</i></b>		Matthew Hensley
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>“Joy to the World!”</i> Church Choir	arr. John Rutter

**SERMON**

**What's the Word?**  
*Weariness and New Life*

Jim Somerville

**HYMN NO. 107, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

ST. LOUIS

**VOTE ON DEACONS**

**THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY**

Jim Somerville

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Jim Somerville

**POSTLUDE, "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"**

Jean-Adam Guilain



The worship services at Richmond's First Baptist Church are planned around the weekly readings from The Revised Common Lectionary. This biblically based approach to worship can be strengthened and enhanced by the awareness and preparation of our church family as we ready ourselves to meet God and each other in worship each week.

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 25, 2022  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

The 11 a.m. worship service is streamed on Sundays at [fbrichmond.org/live](http://fbrichmond.org/live)  
and on YouTube at [fbrichmond.org/youtube](http://fbrichmond.org/youtube).

This week's Sunday worship service will be broadcast LIVE in central Virginia on TV8.

### **Ministry Leadership Staff**

Dr. James G. Somerville, Senior Pastor

#### **The Ministry of Christian Community**

Rev. G. Lynn Turner, Senior Associate Pastor  
Rev. Robert E. Thompson, Minister of Pastoral Care  
Becky Payne, Pastoral Care Associate

#### **The Ministry of Christian Formation**

Dr. Allison Collier, Associate Pastor  
Amanda Lott, Minister to Children & Families  
Ann Carter, Minister to Students  
Michael Lacy, Student Ministry Assistant  
Alex Hamp, Preschool Administrator

#### **The Ministry of Christian Worship**

Dr. Philip L. Mitchell, Associate Pastor  
Ruth Szucs, Music Ministry Associate  
Eunice Kim, Pianist  
Cheryl Van Ornam, Organist

#### **The Ministry of Christian Invitation**

Rev. Matthew Hensley, Associate Pastor  
Lee Byerly, Recreation Director

#### **The Ministry of Christian Compassion**

Rev. Steve R. Blanchard, Associate Pastor  
Emma Tilley, Compassion Ministry Associate

#### **The Ministry of Communication**

Allen Cumbia, Director of Communication Technology  
Leigh Farmer, Communication Coordinator

#### **The Ministry of Support**

Donna Earley, Director of Stewardship and Development  
Raj Chatterjea, Finance and Business Manager

#### **Pastor Emeritus**

Dr. Peter James Flamming

#### **Deaf Mission at Richmond**

Rev. Dirk Hill, Pastor

• **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT FBC!** - Join us for special worship, concerts, devotions, and events for all ages! See the full list at [fbcrichmond.org/advent](http://fbcrichmond.org/advent).

★ **Dr. Somerville's Advent sermon series, *What's the Word?***, continues through Christmas Day.

Sunday worship services throughout Advent and Christmas Day will be LIVE on our webcast, on YouTube, and broadcast LIVE on TV8 in central VA.

★ **75th Youth Christmas Pageant** is on Sunday, December 18 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our youth create, write, and direct a version of the Christmas story using contemporary themes. This year's theme is ***A Charlie Brown Christmas***.

★ **Service of Remembrance** is on Monday, December 19 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. For friends and family who have experienced the loss of a loved one during the past year. We invite you to attend whether you've lost a loved one or wish to support friends who have. Celebrate the lives of those who have passed, as we celebrate the birth of the One who gives eternal life.

★ **There will be no Wednesday night activities** on December 21 and 28.

★ **Christmas Eve Services** are on Saturday, December 24 at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Worship with us by candlelight. The 5 p.m. service is brimming with families and children, and the 11 p.m. service is reflective and includes communion.

★ **Christmas Day Service** is on Sunday, December 25 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us on Christmas for worship only! We won't have Bible study at 9:45 a.m. or childcare at 11 a.m., so children are invited to attend worship (in their pajamas if they'd like). We'll also have rocking chairs in the Narthex (the lobby at the rear of the Sanctuary) to help our youngest ones worship.

• Registration for the 2023-24 school year has begun for **First Baptist Preschool**. As always, church members get first priority during enrollment, plus a 5% discount on tuition. Your child must be 8 months by September 1 to enroll. We offer class from 9 a.m. until noon with opportunities for early morning and extended day care. To enroll use the QR code.



• **Combined Intergenerational Sunday School** - Sunday, January 1 at 9:45 a.m. in Flamming Hall. We will spend time thinking about Matthew 2:13-23 and the idea that "Wherever we go" we are not alone. There will be activities for everyone and families are encouraged to come and participate together. Amanda Lott and Allison Collier will be leading the study and a Zoom link is available from [wicks@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:wicks@fbcrichmond.org).

• **January Bible Study** - Wednesdays, January 4-25 at 6:15 p.m., Flamming Hall. ***The Story of David: A Human after God's Own Heart***, presented by John Upton, Retired Executive Director of The Baptist General Association of Virginia. Zoom option available upon request; contact [wicks@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:wicks@fbcrichmond.org)

• **Church offices will be closed** as we celebrate Christmas and New Year: December 26, 27, & 30.

• **We Need Your Support** - Our church voted to support a \$3.3 million operating budget for this year. In order to reach this goal, we need to receive \$530,300 in gifts before the end of this year. We have already made such a huge impact in our community, but there are many urgent needs to meet before the year ends. Won't you help us reach our goal? If you have already met your pledge goal—bless you! Please consider giving an extra gift this month. If you have not given a gift to First Baptist, this is the perfect time to start. Thank you for your faithful response and for making it possible for First Baptist to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Richmond, Virginia and beyond.



• **The deadline for receiving 2022 gifts** at church is:  
- Postmark or give online by December 31.  
- Drop off your gift at the church reception desk by Thursday, December 29.  
- Raj Chatterjea will also be available until midnight on December 31 to receive donations. Call him at 786-328-2541.

• **Divorce Recovery Winter Support Group** - January 22, 29; February 5, 19, 26 and March 5, from 5-7 p.m. in the Adams Room. The winter support group is led by experienced facilitators who started as participants themselves, and is for anyone experiencing the loss of a relationship through separation, divorce or major breakup. Join others for education, support, encouragement, healing and opportunities to build new and meaningful friendships.

• **Divorce Recovery Safe People Video Series** - January 27 for seven weeks, 6-9 p.m., in Suite 220. Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend teach you that being with an unsafe person can be damaging to your confidence, your trust in others, and even your health. Safe People will give you the tools you need to recognize what makes people relationally safe, form positive relationships, and even become a safe person along the way. Registration: \$35 at the door. Contact Kim McIntosh at [mcintosh@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:mcintosh@fbcrichmond.org).