



Welcome to First Baptist Church, Shreveport. We are a family of faith, from diverse backgrounds and ages, committed to following Jesus together. We strive to grow together in faith, to love God in our worship, and to embrace the call of Jesus in missions and ministry. I hope you experience God in a special way in worship today. We have Bible Study groups for all ages at 9:15 am each Sunday, and these are a great way to get to know the church.

Welcome to the First Baptist Family!
Jeff

Sermon Notes:

The Season of Anticipation & Celebration: We invite the church family to memorize Luke 2: 8-16 in the month of December. **And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Announcements:

SCRIPTURE READING FOR NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 7-9; Psalm 119:113-128; Luke 3-5

Today's worship service will be broadcast on KPXJ CW21 next Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Musical is tonight at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.

Falalalalala Family Christmas is Wednesday, December 16 from 5:00-6:30 pm. Join the fun in Fellowship Hall.

Domino Night is Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 pm in the Activities Center.

"A Child Is Born" Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert with orchestra is next Sunday, December 20. It takes place in the Sanctuary at our regular 10:30 am service time.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service is Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Our Church Offices will be closed December 24, 25, and 28 as well as December 31 and January 1. Have a blessed holiday season.

Our Staff

Dr. Jeff Raines, Pastor
Rev. Clista Adkins, Minister of Discipleship
Dr. Glen Adkins, Minister of Music
Rev. Compil Chao, Chinese Mission Pastor
Dr. James Gillespie, FBC School, Head
Meredith Hanna, Minister to Children
Rev. Katie Mussat, Minister to Students
Tara Partington, Music Associate, Organist
Eric Vandiver, Music Associate, Pianist
Rev. Ronney Joe Webb, Minister of Family Life and Missions

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Cecilia Ostendorff
First Grade

Worship

Prelude
Tara Partington, organ

Savior of the Nations, Come
Max Reger

The Observance of Baptism
Lauren Huguet

Jeff Raines

*Carol 85

The First Nowell

**The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Chorus:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**For all to see there was a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.** (Chorus)

**And by the light of that same star
The wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.** (Chorus)

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood humankind hath bought.** (Chorus)

*Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

Crystal and Jeff Tuey
Sydney, and Burnett

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the Joy we have in Christ.

People: God so loved the world, that he sent His only Son to the world.

Leader: Today we light the Advent candle of Joy.

All: Behold the glow of God's light—the gift of Joy.

*Invocation

Welcome to Worshipers

Ronney Joe Webb

Preschool Choir

Away in A Manger
James Murray

Children's Choir

How Great Our Joy
arr. Terry Taylor

*Doxology

During the singing of the Doxology all children are invited to come to the front for the Children's Sermon

**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, Amen**

Children's Sermon

Jeff Raines

*Carol 100

Angels We Have Heard On High

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Scripture Reading
Romans 10:5-10

Clista Adkins

*Carol 108

How Great Our Joy

**While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright;**

Chorus:

**How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!**

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.
(Chorus)

There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all.
(Chorus)

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joys our hearts shall fill.
(Chorus)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bernard Bolton

Offertory Anthem

Ding! Dong! Merrily On High

Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

Ding dong merrily on high, In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "io, io, io!" By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Sermon: A Story Told in Prepositions
Matthew 1:23

Jeff Raines

*Carol of Response 106

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Opportunities for Service

Meredith Hanna

Sharing of Decisions for Christ

Jeff Raines

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand