



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:

We invite the church to memorize Isaiah 9:6 during the month of December.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. -Isaiah 9:6

Announcements:

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

To our Guests: We are delighted that you joined us today! Near each entrance to the church, we have a gift for you. If one of our church family has not handed you a packet, we hope that you will take one! Packets include both information and a couple of small gifts you may enjoy. Please join us, again, in the future! Our Pastor would love to meet you as you leave the sanctuary!

Attention Parents: Our cry room is located in the Bridal Suite on the West side of our Foyer. There are kids' worship folders located in each side hall of the Sanctuary.

Our **Children's Musical, A Child's View**, is this evening at 5:00 pm in Frost Chapel.

Join us next Sunday, December 18, as our Sanctuary Choir with orchestra presents **Invitation to A Miracle**. This will be a glorious worship experience during this Christmas season.

Falalalala Family Christmas will be Wednesday, December 21 at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Contact Glen Adkins if you are interested in serving or performing.

Our traditional **Christmas Candlelight Service** will begin at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 24.

There will not be Sunday School on Sunday, December 25 or on Sunday, January 1.

Check out your December Chimes for an opportunity to help our newest ministry partner, **Common Ground of Shreveport**. Details can also be found in the front office or in your Sunday School boxes.

Poinsettias will be used in decorating First Baptist Church for Christmas. You can take part by donating one or more plants for this purpose and designating your gift in memory or honor of loved ones. If you wish to take part, please fill out the form below, attach \$8.50 per plant, and return it to the church office by **Monday, December 12**.

Name of Purchaser(s): _____

of plants purchased _____ @ \$8.50 each.

Amount attached: \$ _____ Name of person(s) in whose _____ honor or _____ memory the plant is given: _____

Our Staff

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

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CCLI License #2347260



Worship

Prelude
Tara Partington, organ

Wachet Auf
J.G. Walther

Choral Introit
Children's Choir

Festive Hodie!
Greg Gilpin

*Carol of Praise 87

Joy to the World

**Joy to the World! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

*Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy Julie and John Hedgepeth

*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 Jesus 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

Anthem
Children's Choir
Heather Vandiver and Tara Partington, directors
Bereket Raines and Olivia Ostendorff, soloists
All Is Calm
Barry Braman

Welcome to Worshipers Clista Adkins

*Doxology

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

Children's Sermon Jeff Raines

*Carol *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings*

**God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing ye dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Now to the Lord sing praises, all ye within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Scripture Reading Meredith Hanna
John 1:1-5 (pew Bible page 750)

Handbells
FBC Handbell Choir
We Three Kings
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*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!**

**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!**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Ray Boswell

Offertory
FBC Handbell Choir
A Carol for All Seasons
Terry Price

Anthem
Sanctuary Choir
Alleluia! Christ Is Born
arr. Joseph Martin

Sermon: The Longest Night of the Year Jeff Raines
Isaiah 8:16-9:7 (pew Bible page 489)

*Carol of Response 106 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Angels winging praises singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you!**

Opportunities for Service Katie Mussat

Sharing of Decisions for Christ

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand