



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:

### Year-end giving

A significant portion of our giving for the year happens in December. Based on giving year-to-date, our goal for December is \$320,400. We are marking our progress toward that goal on the Christmas tree. Please remember your church family as you make your end of year giving plans.



## 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 guest information packets. These 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.

**Candles, Carols, & Children** Christmas Eve service is this evening at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Our **church offices** will be closed tomorrow, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26.

The **Christmas music** service from December 17 will be televised at 9:30 this evening, and again at 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Day. The broadcast will be on KTBS 3.3 (News Channel), Comcast 208, or Suddenlink 722

### Year-end Contribution Policy

In order to be in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service, any contributions which donors wish to be reported as 2017 deductible contributions must meet the following criteria:

1. If delivered in person, contributions must be received in the church business office no later than 3:00 p.m. Friday, December 29 or turned in on Sunday, December 31.
2. If the contribution is mailed, it must be postmarked (not meter-dated) no later than December 31, 2017.
3. If the contribution is electronically sent, the sending date must be no later than December 31, 2017.

Any gift received on January 1, 2018 or later will be shown as a 2018 contribution. IRS guidelines require that members who wish to itemize contribution deductions must have a copy of the church's contribution report when filing an income tax return. Reports will be mailed in January 2018.

### 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  
Andy Liu, Chinese Mission Pastor  
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



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017

# Worship

Prelude  
Tara Partington, organ

*Sing We Now of Christmas*  
arr. Owen Griffin

\*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 heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n, 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 Love

The Flournoy, Talbot Family

\*Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday  
in which we recall the Love 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 Love.

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

\*Invocation

Welcome to Worshipers

\*Doxology

Children's Sermon

Jeff Raines

\*Carol

*Mary Did You Know*

*Congregation*

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy  
would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy  
would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy  
will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy  
will calm the storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?  
Mary did you know?

*Choir*

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.  
Mary, did you know?

*Congregation*

Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great I Am.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a (pew Bible page 813)

Clista Adkins

\*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.  
(continued)

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.

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Clista Adkins

Offertory Solo

Leah Sayad, soloist

*Gesu Bambino*

Pietro Yon

Anthem

Sanctuary Choir

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

arr. Dan Forrest

Sermon: The God Who Sees

Luke 1:39-56 (pew Bible page 724)

Jeff Raines

\*Hymn of Response 91

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Opportunities for Service

Ronney Joe Webb

Sharing of Decisions for Christ

\*Congregational Benediction

*The First Nowell*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Postlude

\*Please stand