



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. The Christmas music will be broadcast one more time this afternoon at 5:00 pm on KTBS 33, Comcast 208, or Suddenlink 722.

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 **church offices** will be closed Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27.

There will **NOT be any activities** on Wednesday, December 28 or Wednesday, January 4.

We will not have **Sunday School** on Sunday, January 1. Our regular worship service will be at 10:30 am.

Year-end Contribution Policy

In order to be in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service, any contributions which donors wish to be reported as 2016 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 30, 2016. (The church office will be closed on December 31.)
2. If the contribution is mailed, it must be postmarked (not meter-dated) no later than December 31, 2016.
3. If the contribution is electronically sent, the sending date must be no later than December 31, 2016.

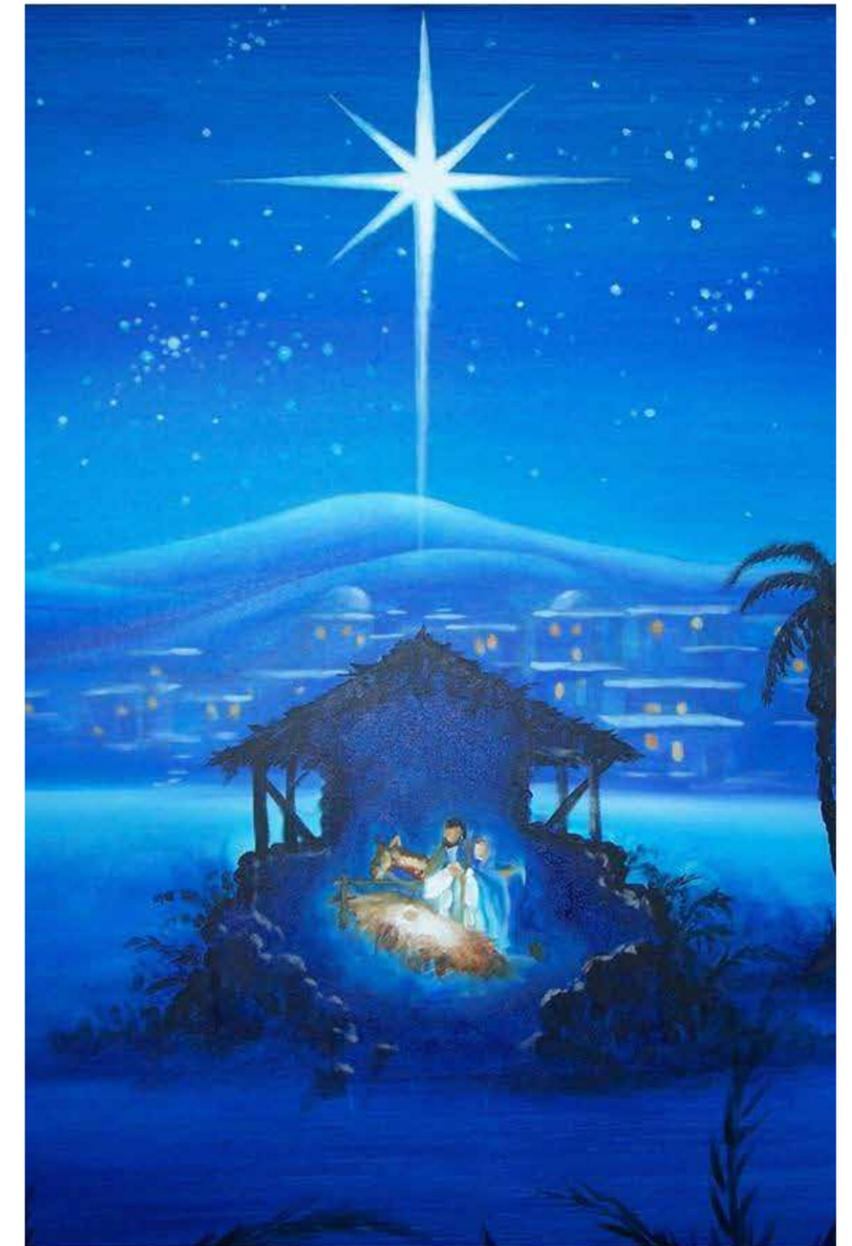
Any gift received on January 1, 2017 or later will be shown as a 2017 contribution.

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 2017.

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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Worship

How do we wish to meet this Child? Have our hands become too hard and proud from daily work to fold themselves in adoration at the sight of this Child? Do we carry our head, which has had to think so many heavy thoughts and to solve so many problems, too high for us to bow it humbly before the wonder of this Child? Can we one more time forget entirely all our strivings, accomplishments, and importance, to join the shepherds and the sages from the East and offer childlike adoration to the divine Child in the manger? It is truly a strange sight when a strong, proud man bends his knee before this Child, when with a simple heart he finds and reveres in Him his Savior. ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prelude *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Tara Partington, organ *arr. David Lowe*

*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.**

*Invocation *Clista Adkins*

Welcome to Worshipers

*Doxology

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

Children's Sermon *Meredith Hanna*

*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 *Katie Mussat*
Isaiah 40:9 (pew Bible page 511)

*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)**
(continued)

**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 heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. (Chorus)**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving *Ronney Joe Webb*

Offertory *Away in a Manger*
Eric Vandiver, piano *arr. Dino Kartsonakis*

Solo *Gesu Bambino*
Leah Sayad, Soprano *Pietro Yon*

Sermon: Good News! *Jeff Raines*
Luke 2 (pew Bible page 724)

*Carol of Response 95 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Chorus:
**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold thro'out the heavens there shone a holy light. (Chorus)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Chorus)**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Chorus)**

Opportunities for Service *Meredith Hanna*

Sharing of Decisions for Christ

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand