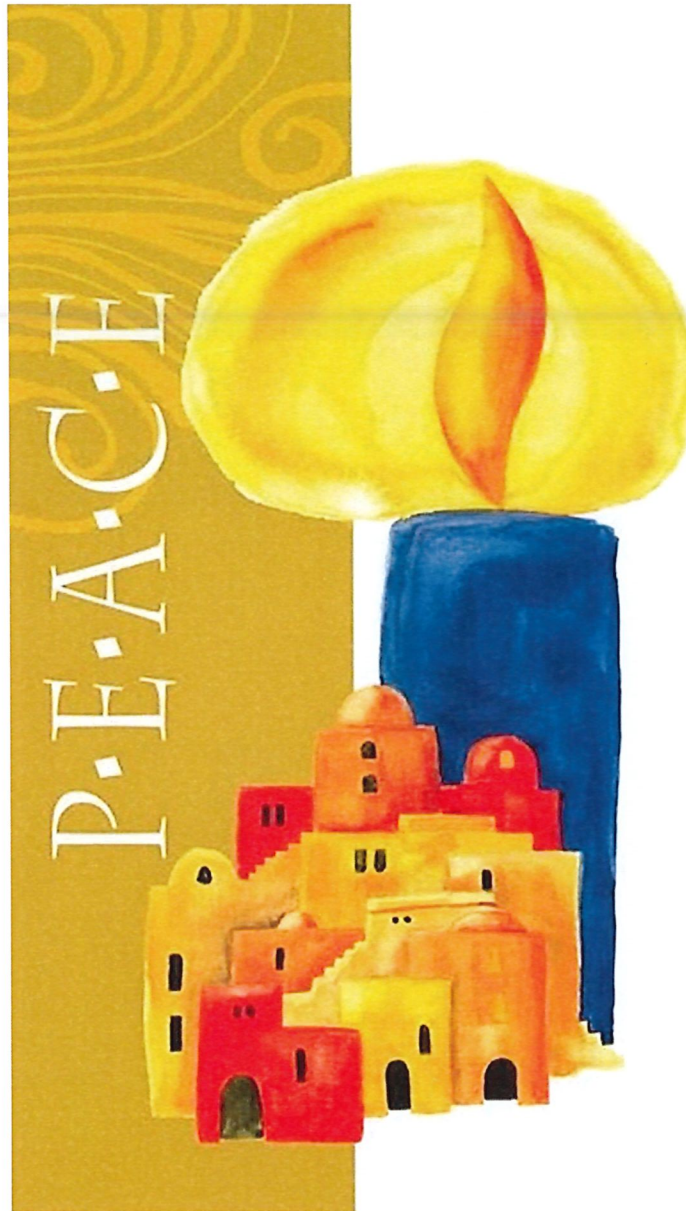


First Baptist Church of Dayton  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS  
DECEMBER 8, 2024



111 W. Monument Avenue  
Dayton OH 45402  
937-222-4691

[fbc@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:fbc@fbcd Dayton.org) | [www.fbcd Dayton.org](http://www.fbcd Dayton.org)  
Twitter: @FBCDaytonOH | Instagram: fbcd Dayton



The First Baptist Church at Worship  
 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 A Service of Lessons and Carols  
 December 8, 2024 ~ 10:00 AM



THE PRELUDE

Gregory Land, Organist  
 R. Alan Kimbrough, Pianist

- Christmas Fantasy ..... Clarence Kohlmann
- Angels Ever Bright and Fair ..... G. F. Handel
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ..... Polish Carol  
 setting by Mary Ellen Kerrick
- Noël Nouvelet ..... French Carol  
 setting by Hal H. Hopson
- The Jesus Gift ..... Gilbert M. Martin  
 setting by Ron Boud
- Angels We Have Heard on High ..... French Carol  
 setting by Fred Bock



In Praise to the Lord

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

A three-fold ringing of three signifies the presence of the triune God:  
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir  
 Dr. William Henry Caldwell, Conductor

The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed ..... Hal H. Hopson

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all the earth shall see it together, for the mouth of the  
 Lord hath spoken it. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis

\*OPENING HYMN

**#104** *Once In Royal David's City*  
 IRBY

This Christmas hymn was originally written to explain this part of the Apostles' Creed: "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary." Each stanza explores part of the contrast between Jesus' divinity and humanity. The first stanza contrasts the grand idea of "royal David's city" with the lowliness of a cattle-shed, and the second, the glory of heaven, from where He came, with the poverty of earth to which He came. The hymn ends by reminding us that Christ has ascended once again to glory, where we shall see Him, as He said: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The child’s authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and the kingdom. God will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” ~Isaiah 9:6-7*

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. O come, O come Emmanuel.

AN ADVENT PRAYER FOR **PEACE**

Loving God, in this Advent season, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; and where there is darkness, light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Vs. 1-2) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*  
TIF INVELDELE

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.  
Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the  
 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -  
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the  
 light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and  
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.



# Listening for the Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4

Jaimee Ryan

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:2-6

Jaimee Ryan

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Luke.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

"During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

\*FELLOWSHIP HYMN

*#129 Jesus, the Light of the World*  
WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

We can't see our future, direction, or destination, but Jesus can. Like the lighthouse guided the ship, Jesus directs us toward God's light. The light of Christ guides us through the darkness of sin, life, and struggle both spiritually and literally.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

(Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message during the last stanza of the fellowship hymn. All kids 3 years and older are invited to go downstairs (Room 4) after the Children's Message for a "One Room Sunday School" class. Parents are asked to pick up their children after service.)

CALL TO PRAYER

*#399 O Lord, Hear My Prayer*  
O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

**O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.  
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.  
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. David Coggins

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts & Debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



## Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #1: Luke 2:7

Donna Miles Curry

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

I Saw a Stable (Mary Elizabeth Coleridge)

I saw a stable, low and very bare,  
A little child in a manger.  
The oxen knew Him, had Him in their care,  
To men He was a stranger,  
The safety of the world was lying there,  
And the world's danger.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ..... H. Clough-Leighter

*Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King!  
Peace on Earth, and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies  
with angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new born King.*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #2: Luke 2:13-14

Kate Bradley

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'"*

The Angel at the Nativity (Tania Runyon)

Oh, God, I am heavy  
with glory. My head thunders  
from singing in the hills.  
This night will come once.  
Enough bright lights.  
Enough shouting  
at shepherds in the fields.  
Let me slip into the stable  
and crouch among  
the rooting swine.  
Let me close my eyes  
and feel the child's breath,  
this wind that blows  
through the mountains and stars,  
lifting my weary wings.

Sing We Now of Christmas ..... French Carol

*Sing we now of Christmas Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Nowel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!*

*Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey for the Bethlehem, find the child so blest."*

*In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,  
seated by the manger watching the holy child.*

*From the eastern country came the kings afar,  
bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star.*

*Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;  
there was never a stable so like paradise.*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #3: 1 Corinthians 2:7

Brad Kallenberg

*"But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery,  
which God decreed before the ages for our glory."*

In Tenebris (Ford Madox Ford)

All within is warm,  
Here without it's very cold,  
Now the year is grown so old  
And the dead leaves swarm.

In your heart is light,  
Here without it's very dark,  
When shall I hear the lark?  
When see aright?

Oh, for a moment's space!  
Draw the clinging curtains wide  
Whilst I wait and yearn outside  
Let the light fall on my face.

Nowel ..... Randall Thompson

*Nowel*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #4: Psalm 150:3-6

Joe Williams

*Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!  
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!  
Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!*

Ring Out, Wild Bells (Alfred, Lord Tennyson)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

He is Born ..... Carlton R. Young

*He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.  
Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming  
thru long ages of the past now the time has come at last.  
O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to human kind!  
Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace.*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #5: Matthew 2:1-2

Cyerra Pemberton

*"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?' For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."*

Promise (Georgia Douglas Johnson)

Through the moil and the gloom they have issued  
To the steps of the upwinding hill,  
Where the sweet, dulcet pipes of tomorrow  
In their preluding rhapsodies trill.  
  
With a thud comes a stir in the bosom,  
As there steals on the sight from afar,  
Through a break of a cloud's coiling shadow  
The gleam of a bright morning star!

How Unto Bethlehem ..... arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

*How unto Bethlehem this pilgrimage of Kings? What wonder your arrival brings,  
How strange the royal diadem in Bethlehem. Seek we a King, and honor bear him from afar,  
His birth proclaimed by a star, 'Tis surely near, Oh tell us, pray, Is this the way.  
Ah, but the child ye seek so richly to adorn of lowly maid is lowly born,  
His palace but a stable bare, no crown lies there.  
Seek we the stable then, for though in manger laid and lowly born of lowly maid,  
this day a Kingdom is begun and His the one.  
Then hail Him, King of Wisdom, King of love and Bliss,  
For king in truth this baby is. The Savior of mankind is He, Eternally.*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #6: Luke 1:26-27

Ray Landis

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.  
The virgin's name was Mary.*

Ave! Maria! (W. E. B. Du Bois)

Ave! Maria!  
Mother-maid pitiful  
Sister of sorrows  
And daughter of men  
Ave! Maria!  
Mother of Miracles  
Mercy made Wonderful  
To thy breast Bountiful  
Gather the Sorrowful  
Daughter of Sin  
Ave! Maria!  
Ave! Maria!  
Gather them in!

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ..... W Zlobie Lezy

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels 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 a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow; Christ the babe was born for you.*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #7: Matthew 19:14

Samantha Leal

*But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them,  
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."*

Christmas Greetings from a Fairy to a Child (Lewis Carroll)

Lady dear, if Fairies may  
For a moment lay aside  
Cunning tricks and elfish play,  
'Tis at happy Christmas-tide.  
We have heard the children say—  
Gentle children, whom we love—  
Long ago, on Christmas Day,  
Came a message from above.  
Still, as Christmas-tide comes round,  
They remember it again—  
Echo still the joyful sound  
"Peace on earth, good-will to men!"  
Yet the hearts must childlike be  
Where such heavenly guests abide:  
Unto children, in their glee,  
All the year is Christmas-tide!

Silent Night ..... arr. Paul Sjolund

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight: glories stream from heaven a far,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ the savior is born.*



*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus Lord at thy birth.*



CHRISTMAS CARMEN READING #8: Titus 3:4-5

Sue Wilson

*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,  
not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy,  
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

Christmas Is Waiting to Be Born (Howard Thurman)

Where refugees seek deliverance that never comes,  
And the heart consumes itself, if it would live,  
Where little children age before their time,  
And life wears down the edges of the mind,  
Where the old man sits with mind grown cold,  
While bones and sinew, blood and cell, go slowly down to death,  
Where fear companions each day's life, And Perfect Love seems long delayed.  
Christmas is waiting to be born:  
In you, in me, in all of humankind.

Mary Had a Baby ..... Ronald Carter

*Mary had a baby, oh my Lord, where was he born, born in a manger low.  
Mary had a baby, oh yes, Oh my Lord. What did they call him, some call him one thing,  
but I'll call him another, some say Emmanuel, I call him Sweet Little Jesus Boy.  
I'll call him Jesus wonderful counselor, everlasting father, he is the prince of peace.  
He is called King Jesus, wonderful counselor, Mighty God ever lasting father.  
He is the prince of peace.*



## The Response of God's People

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

#90 *People, Look East*  
BESANCON

"People, Look East" has gained increasing popularity as an Advent carol as evidenced by its appearance in a number of hymnals in the United States. Key images of the season are abundant. "People, Look East" is the direction of the rising sun and, in the history of Christianity, the direction of the coming Messiah.

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Berghuis

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*  
Lutkin

*The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace, and give you peace.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious, unto you be gracious;*

*the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you.  
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen,  
Amen, Amen, Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Gregory Land and R. Alan Kimbrough

How Great Our Joy! ..... German Carol  
with Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
setting by Paul Ferrin



(\* ) You're invited to rise in body or in spirit!

*Please drop off your offering and yellow card in the basket as you leave.  
Thank you for supporting the ministry of the church!*

(Music and words are used with permission of CCLI License #1826847.)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to our worship service!** If you are visiting, we would love to get to know you. Please fill out a yellow card with your contact information and a pastor will be happy to get in touch with you. Anyone is welcome to use these cards to communicate with our office and share prayer requests or other information, too. We have baskets for our offering and communication cards at our entrances/exits.

We continue to **livestream and video record** our Sunday worship service through our YouTube channel. This can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/> and look for First Baptist Church Dayton Ohio, or check our website (<http://www.fbcdayton.org/>).

### Week of Dec. 8 – 15

Sun. 8	10:00a	.....	Service of Lessons & Carols – Advent 2
	11:15a	.....	Coffee Fellowship
	11:30a	.....	Sunday School for All Ages
	11:30a	.....	Pageant Rehearsal in Sanctuary
Tue. 10	7:00p	.....	DP rehearsal
Wed. 11	11:00a	.....	Midweek Advent Study (CEC)
	2:00p	.....	Bible Study
	6:30p	.....	Board Meetings
Thu. 12		.....	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 13	7:00p	.....	Koinonia Christmas Party (Bogans)
Sun. 15	10:00a	.....	Worship & Children's Pageant – Advent 3
	11:15a	.....	Coffee Fellowship
	11:30a	.....	Sunday School for All Ages
	5:30p	.....	BYF Christmas Party

## Prayer for the Armed Forces

*Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations, give them courage to face the perils which beset them, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Prayers of the People

*(If you have someone you'd like to add or remove, please let us know.)*

Babb Family	Lavanda Ferguson	Kaye Suryk
Clara Black	Debbie Harshman	Thomson Family
Jessica Blair	Barbara Jett	Lee Tyson
Gail Bowman	Kalbfleisch Family	Anne Veghte
Don Brown	Landis Family	Harold West
Jessica Brown	Gene Lee	Cynthia Whittaker
Linda Ginter-Brown	Vincent Liss	Dorothy Williams
Gerald Busch	Tom McKenzie	Sharon Wingham
Caldwell Family	Lisa McMullen	<b>Military Duty:</b>
Pamela Cress	Merkle Family	Sebastian Ewald
Donovan-Schlaile Family	Mary Ann Paloncy	Sunny Ewald
Kerby Downs	Susan Parent	Brittany Kalbfleisch
Bill Harrell	Judy See	Kyle Kline
Debbie Harshman	Roger Stephens	Andy Wilson

Iglesia Bautista Dios Compasivo (El Salvador)

## Change to Online Giving

The new online giving site, Engage, is available now for use, and the old site will be phased out as of 12/31/24. Nancy Kerr will assist you if you have any difficulties. More info will be available in the weekly bulletin/email announcements. Instruction sheets/flyers will be available soon as well. The link to the new online giving site is: <https://engage.suran.com/firstbaptistdayton>

## December Church Meetings

Board Meetings: Wed., Dec. 11 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council: Wed., Dec. 18 @ 6:30pm

## The Mitten Tree



During the Advent/Christmas season, we ask that you honor the gift of Christ with gifts for those in need. You may bring gifts of hats, mittens, gloves & scarves to place on our Mitten Tree for kids and families served by the Dayton Christian Center. The Mitten Tree is located in the narthex at the front entrance of the church.

## Blanket Donation Drive for St. Vincent DePaul Shelter

Following the lead of our young people, we invite you to donate a blanket or two for the St. Vincent DePaul shelter. We began collecting donations on November 17, and will continue to do so through Sunday, December 15. Blankets can be placed on the designated table in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Jason. Thank you!

## Koinonia Christmas Party

Friday, Dec. 13 @ 7pm

Home of Daryl & Barb Bogan  
(7610 Rolling Oaks Dr, 45459)

Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share!

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

*Special Advent Series!*

### ---Angels All Around Us---

Led by Rev. Dr. Karen Johnson

Sundays, Dec. 1 & 8 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor - Choir Room

Are you curious about angels? How do you picture them? These messengers from God are poised to act in a surprising number of ways. Through art, angel-lore and the Biblical witness, we will become more familiar with angels and their actions. Join Dr. Johnson for light-hearted and informative Sunday School sessions, including a survey of angels in the nativity narratives.

### ---Legends, Symbols, and Traditions of the Holiday Season---

Led by Angie Berghuis

Sundays, Dec. 15 & 22 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor - Chapel

If you enjoyed or missed the Sunday School sessions on Cemetery Symbols, you just may like these two sessions on the Legends, Symbols, and Traditions of the Holiday Season and objects we see every day. Some stories may bring you laughter and joy while others may bring peace and solace. Join Angie Berghuis on December 15 and 22 for these special holiday classes. All attendees will receive a special gift.

### ---Church History: Medieval Christianity---

Led by Dr. Roy Vice

Sundays, Jan. 5, 12 & 19 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor - Chapel

We once again welcome Dr. Roy Vice, as he shares his knowledge of pivotal moments in Church History, this time focusing on Medieval Christianity. The High Middle Ages were the Golden Age of building the great Gothic Cathedrals. Gothic architecture has pointed arches, ribbed vaulting and flying buttresses. Some cathedrals have as much stone below ground as above. Notre Dame de Paris is just the most famous of these cathedrals. This was also the era of the growth of universities and Scholasticism, the effort by Thomas Aquinas and others to integrate the philosophy of Aristotle into Christian theology. This revival of learning was very influential. After 1300 the weather turned colder and wetter and there were famines. The Ottoman Turks began to conquer land in Turkey and Greece. During most of the 14th century the papacy was in Avignon, France and the popes built a magnificent palace. John Wyclif criticized the wealth and worldliness of the church. To add to the suffering, The Bubonic Plague swept through Europe killing around a third of the population. Finally, the Hundred Years' War between England and France broke out. Ultimately, the new Nation States began to emerge...



### ABC-USA December Offering

In December the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is a tangible way for the American Baptist congregations to say "Thank You" for the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. Please make checks payable to FBC and note RMMO on the memo line. Thank you!

*"Protect the Autumn Woods!"*

**Art Show by Jerome Stueart**

Jerome's art show "Protect the Autumn Woods!" runs through Dec. 15 at the Dayton Society of Artists, 48 High Street, Dayton, in the St. Anne's Hill area. Open on Fridays & Saturdays from 12:00-5:00pm.

## Midweek Advent Study with Christ Episcopal

Wednesdays @ 11am-Noon

December 4, 11 & 18

Christ Episcopal Church

(20 W First St, Dayton 45402)

You are invited to take part in a midweek Advent study involving folks from FBC and Christ Episcopal. We will be using material from an Advent Devotional called, "Words for the Beginning" to help shape our time together. Limited print copies will be available. This is another opportunity for us to nurture ecumenical relationships and grow together in faith. Note, participants are also invited to stay for the midweek Eucharist service that takes place at 12:10pm.

NOTE: Additional resources for this Advent series are available on CEC's website, including details about what we'll be covering each week along with other resources to use at home (spotify playlist, weekly poems, photo-a-day advent challenge). Here's the link: <https://daytonchristepiscopal.com/formation/>

## Downtowners Christmas Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 1:30pm

Christ Episcopal Church (20 W. First St. Dayton) cordially invites everyone to a delightful Christmas concert featuring Percy Jones and Friends, performing a wide array of seasonal music with voice, harp, flute, violin, organ, piano, and handbells. Reception to follow.

## Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 10am

Mark your calendars as we are once again looking forward to our children and youth (and the young at heart) offering some Christmas Pageantry as part of our worship on December 15. **Casting and rehearsals will be on Sundays, December 1 & 8 during the 11:30am Sunday School/Second Hour time, and take place in the Sanctuary.** If you have any questions, speak with Pastor Jason.

## BYF Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 5:30-7:30pm

We are hosting a Christmas Party for our BYF youth (grades 6–12) along with youth from Harmony Creek Church on Sunday, December 15 @ 5:30-7:30pm. Pizza will be provided, and we invite folks to bring a snack/dessert/side to share (potluck style) and we'll spend our time connecting and playing games. We also plan to do a Silly Gift Exchange (gifts can be made, regifted or bought, \$10 max.). They just need to be anonymously wrapped. Friends are always welcome. Just RSVP to Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org)) so we have enough pizza, etc.

## Blue Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, Dec. 19 @ 7pm

St. John's United Church of Christ

(515 E. 3rd St., Dayton, OH 45402)

A group of area pastors, including Pastor Jason, are organizing an ecumenical Blue Christmas Service. The purpose of this kind of service is to create a prayerful, worshipful space in which folks will be able to express any grief they may be feeling during this Advent/Christmas Season. There will be opportunities to share with others, a variety of ways to pray/reflect, time to sit peacefully and listen, and even to sing. And we will conclude our time by sharing Holy Communion. You are welcome to participate as you feel comfortable. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Jason.

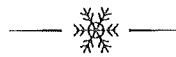
**Special Guest Artist**  
**Philip Armstrong, Tenor**  
**Sunday, Dec. 22 @ 10am**

Special musical guest Philip Armstrong is a native of Bidwell, Ohio and graduate of Central State University and the University of Akron. He currently lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and he served as the first Director of the Greenwood Rising Museum. He has performed throughout the country as a tenor soloist and has been featured in his hometown with the Ohio Valley Symphony Orchestra. As a student at Central State he distinguished himself as scholar, musician, student conductor, and radio personality. We welcome him and his family to First Baptist Church!



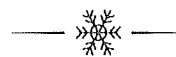
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
**Music Prelude at 5:45 p.m.**  
**Service at 6:00 p.m.**

*Arrive by 5:45 to hear the music prelude featuring Aurelian Oprea, violin,  
Ryan Bradley, guitar, and Gregory Land, organ.*



*Holiday Office Hours*

Monday, Dec. 23 – Office closes at 1pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Office closed  
Wednesday, Dec. 25 – *Merry Christmas!*  
Thursday, Dec. 26 – Open 10-2  
Friday, Dec. 27 – Open 10-2  
Monday, Dec. 30 – Open 10-2  
Tuesday, Dec. 31 – Office closed  
Wednesday, Jan. 1 – *Happy New Year!*



**Annual Reports are Due January 6, 2025**

Annual reports for 2024 are due by Monday, January 6, 2025 from pastoral staff, board chairs, and committee chairs. Please email reports to Linda Blair at [fbcbcd@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:fbcbcd@fbcd Dayton.org). Thank you.

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**STEWARDSHIP 2025**

If you would like to make a financial pledge for year 2025, contact Nancy Kerr by phone or email [nkerr@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:nkerr@fbcd Dayton.org). Pledge cards are available in the pew racks and on the table by the church office. Thank you!

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Send

W	C	H	U	R	C	H	C
D	B	A	Z	E	J	C	O
G	I	F	T	S	Y	A	O
O	B	X	V	B	M	R	K
C	L	P	R	A	Y	D	I
Q	E	T	H	J	N	S	E
G	C	A	N	D	L	E	S

**Getting ready for Christmas**

Some ways we can get ready for Jesus are hidden in the puzzle. Look for the underlined words. Circle the words you find.

- Come to church.
- Pray together.
- Send Christmas cards.
- Read the Bible.
- Light Advent candles.
- Make gifts.
- Bake cookies.



**this week**

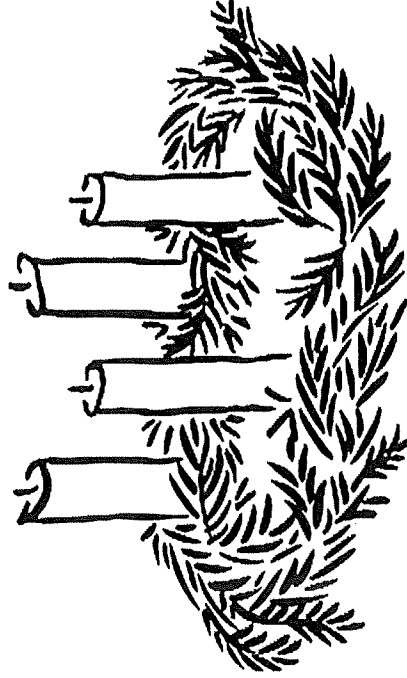
Say prayers with your family around your Advent wreath.



**gather**

Welcome to worship. Today is the second Sunday in Advent. How many candles are burning on the Advent wreath today?

Color and light two candles.



Listen to the words of the songs you sing in worship. What do you hear again and again?

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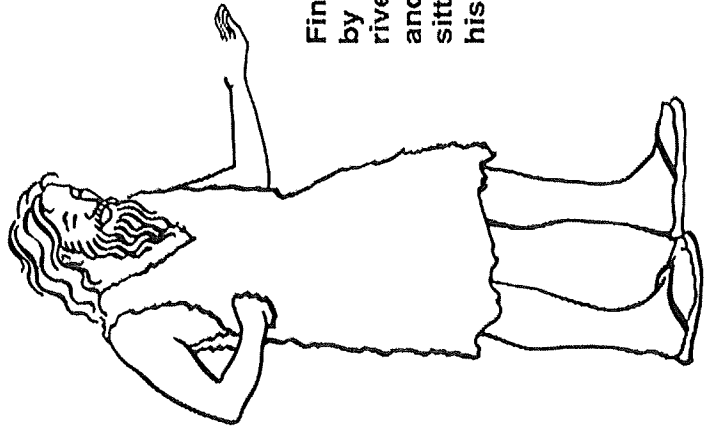
# hear & celebrate

## Meet John the Baptizer

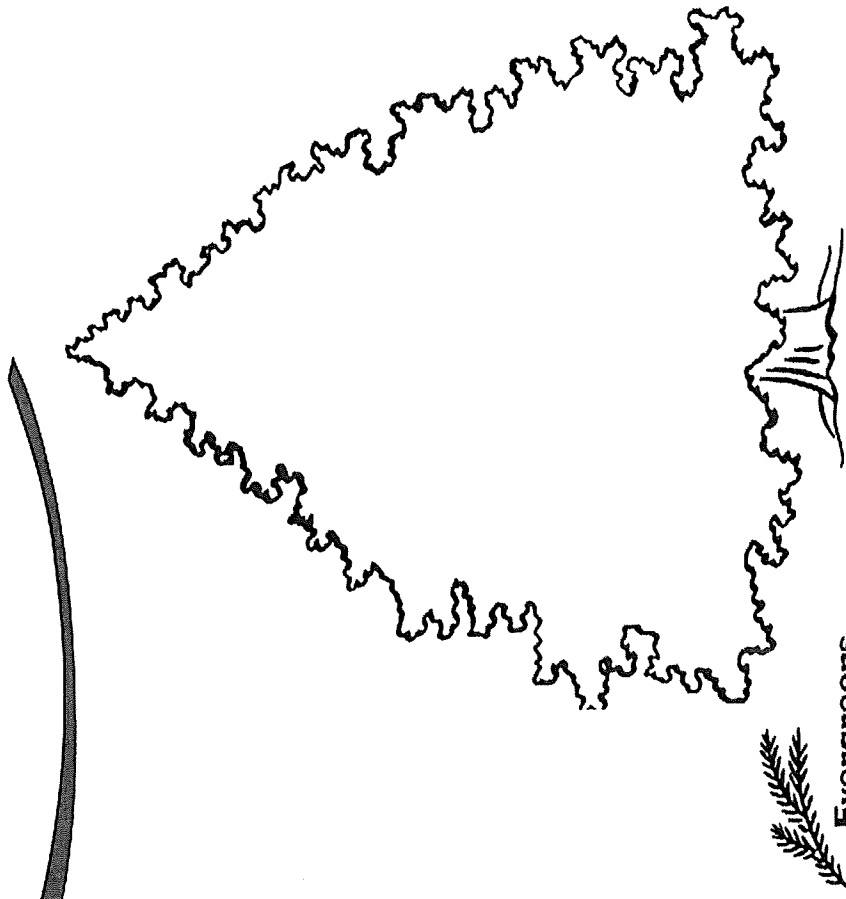
Luke 3:1-6

God promised to send someone to help people get ready for Jesus. This person was John the Baptizer. John said, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" John helped people get ready by baptizing them in the Jordan River.

John wore clothes made of camel's hair. He wore a leather belt. He ate honey and locusts. Locusts are big grasshoppers. Would you like to eat a grasshopper?



Finish this picture by drawing the river, John's belt, and a locust sitting on his hand.



## Evergreens

Evergreen needles stay green all year long. The green of the Advent wreath reminds us that God loves us in winter, spring, summer, and fall—always. Many of us decorate our homes and churches with evergreens to get ready for Christmas. Draw ornaments on this evergreen tree to remind you to "prepare the way of the Lord."

*Dear Jesus, help me get ready for your birthday by filling my home with reminders of your love. Amen*