

# The First Baptist Church of Worcester

## MORNING WORSHIP

We are a community of believers who seek to grow in our faith and understanding as we live the Way of Jesus Christ.



### Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2011



10:00 AM

**PRELUDE** Comfort, Comfort Now My People ..... Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)  
Of the Father's Love Begotten..... John Watkinson (d. 1972)  
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come..... Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**\*HYMN 155** Comfort, Comfort Now My People ..... Genevan

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** BJ Perkins,  
Rachel and Rebecca Levine

Leader: Keep shadows without and light within.

**People: Let your light shine!**

Leader: Keep fear without and justice within.

**People: Comfort, comfort your people!**

Leader: Keep chaos without and life within.

**People: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!**

Leader: Keep despair without and hope within.

**People: Deliver us that we may rejoice!**

**ALL: Come, O Advent God, and reveal your promise in us now!**

**\*INVOCATION (Unison)**

Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that strengthens us for the world. Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that encourages us to be faithful to you. Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that inspires us to be messengers of hope that our world may be transformed, and that it may begin here, in this place and among these people. Comfort us, O God, with a comfort that renews our living and our worship. In the spirit of Christ we offer the prayer he taught....Our Father...

**\* GLORIA PATRI 734** ..... Greatorex

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*\*Those who are able, may stand.*

*Please turn pagers and cell phones to silent mode. Nursery care is available for children during worship service. Please speak with an usher for assistance.*

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (P. 581-582)

**CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Anthem** *How Lovely Are the Messengers from St. Paul*.....

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**\* Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN*

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**COMMUNION MEDITATION** *Straight Highways*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\* COMMUNION HYMN 153** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ..... Hyfrydol

**A SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

We welcome the following new member into the church: *Samuel Abrigyan*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Sanctus* .....Geneva 124

Words of Institution

The Passing of the Bread\* and Wine

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*..... Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

*E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*..... Paul Manz (1919—2009)

The Passing of the Peace and *Blest Be the Tie*

**\* HYMN 708** *Go Forth for God* .....Geneva 124

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* RESPONSE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* .....John Rutter (b. 1945)

**POSTLUDE** *Come Savior of the Nations* .....J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Chancel Choir  
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

\*Gluten-free communion wafers are provided for those who require an alternative to traditional bread.

## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUE STATEMENTS**

**INCLUSION** *We welcome all in Christ's love.*

**FREEDOM OF FAITH** *Individual interpretation of God's Word and freedom of expression are cornerstones of our faith.*

**SERVICE** *We seek to be a Christ-like presence in the world.*

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH** *We encourage all to seek Christian growth.*

**WE WELCOME YOU...** to the Morning Worship at First Baptist Church. If you are a visitor, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out a Welcome Card and place in the offering plate or give to an usher. We believe that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all persons, of any age, race, sexual orientation, denomination, cultural background, and economic means as integral members of God's family.

**IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY...** Please join us for fellowship and refreshments here in Gordon Hall following the service. If you are searching for a church home, we would love to get to know you. Please speak with a Minister or call during the week at 508-755-6143. Those with infants and children up to age 5 may take them to the Nursery/Preschool class. An usher will be happy to assist you with directions to rooms in the church building, and with any special needs.

**WE WELCOME BACK TODAY, WILLIAM NESS...** Minister of Music & Arts who has been on Sabbatical. Welcome back, William!

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ...**are given in remembrance of Charles Hodgkins by his family.

**HANGING OF THE GREENS...** We are grateful for the gifts of time and creativity from those volunteers who decorated our church for Christmas this year, including: Ruth Bergstrom, Evelyn and Ray Carlsen, Carolyn Clark, Nancy Curtis, Paula Harvey, Stephanie Harvey, Dave Johnson, Steve Loring and Judy Stoddard. We also thank John Belanger for cooking breakfast to boost everyone's energy, and both John B. and Mark Dorsey for their hard work getting things set up for the decorators. Thank you all!

**HOPE FOR HOUSING GROCERY CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS...** for example, for those who deliver the mail or newspaper to us every day. The cards can be purchased in \$25 dollar amounts, after Sunday worship service from Anne Puffer in Gordon Hall.

**PRAYER...** "My prayers are worth something to a stranger and now that stranger is worth something to me." River Jordan, a writer

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

- \* The Scrogin Book Forum
- \* The Christmas Dinner
- \* The Building & Grounds, Music & Arts, Stewardship, and Social Action committees
- \* The Briarwood Ministries of our Prayer Ministries
- \* The family of Gloria Bayliss
- \* Those who are receiving medical testing or intervention
- \* People with chronic illnesses and their caregivers
- \* Victims of drought, storms, fire, violence and war
- \* Betty Benett, Ned Bennett, Harry Bayliss, Donald Crosby and Joyce Jensen
- \* Those who are unemployed
- \* Those with fibromyalgia and depression
- \* Missing children and their families

**ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!...**Remember loved ones by donating a poinsettia in honor or remembrance of someone special. Each plant is \$12.00. Order forms are located in the lobby areas and the hallway beside the Church Office. The poinsettias will be displayed in the Sanctuary on December 9th (just in time for the beautiful Jericho Road Concert) , on December 11th during morning worship and the 4 PM Candlelight Choral Evensong. After the Evensong service, poinsettias may be picked up and delivered to our First Baptist members and friends, especially those on the Visitation List.

**WPI PRESENTATION NEXT WEEK ...**during Adult Forum. On December 11, a representative from WPI will present their plans for a parking garage adjacent to their new athletic center complex currently under construction, and underneath the athletic field next to FBC parking lot. Please plan to attend this important presentation.

**MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST...**Men of all ages, mark your calendars for 8:00 AM:

**Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 3, Apr. 14, May 5, June 2**

122 Diner (across from Wachusett High School)

1392 Main Street

Any Questions: Contact Tom Ward @ [tward@oxps.org](mailto:tward@oxps.org)

**JERICO ROAD WORCESTER - HOLIDAY BENEFIT CONCERT...**featuring Maria Ferrante (soprano) and Will Sherwood (piano, organ ), with Rafael Popper-Keizer (cello), Friday, **December 9**, 7:30 PM here at First Baptist Church. This is the 3rd year for this beautiful concert which benefits the nonprofit organization, Jericho Road Worcester (JRW). JRW matches the professional skills of volunteers with the needs of nonprofit organizations. Tickets are \$25.00 and available from the First Baptist Church office.

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE...**for Arlene C. Alexander will be held on **December 10th** at 2:30 PM in Davis Chapel. Arlene passed away on October 27th in Santa Fe, NM where she had been living in recent years, to be near her daughter.

**THE MITTEN TREE IS BACK...**the Benevolence Committee asks each of us to support this community outreach project by knitting mittens or by purchasing them, and placing them on the tree in Gordon Hall. The mittens will go to families associated with the Head Start Program. The last date to donate them is **December 18th**. Let's try to fill every branch this year!

**OPEN MIC NIGHT - MAKING A DIFFERENCE...** FBC members and community are invited to this free, concert-style event on **January 6th** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Please join us in Gordon Hall to celebrate a new year among friends and family. This event is being coordinated by an experienced program/event planner. A variety of performers and musical styles will be here: folk singers, poets, blue grass, jazz, classical, pop, and more.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS...**We thank those who have recently decided to donate time in the Church Office (or where needed). Their gifts of time and commitment are truly appreciated and needed. There are still openings for Sunday morning (3rd or 4th Sunday of the month) and some times during the week. Please contact Pat Czerny during the week (Mon-Fri) to learn more about what is involved and how you could help.

# This Week at First Baptist Church

111 Park Avenue  
Worcester Massachusetts 01609  
508-755-6143      www.fbc-worc.org

TODAY, Dec. 4

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT /COMMUNION

8:30 AM Breakfast; Nursery Opens; Choir Warm-up  
9:00 AM Bible & Bagels; Sunday School  
10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:10 AM Scrogin Forum  
**5:00 PM Christmas Dinner**



Mon., Dec. 5

1:00 PM Staff Meeting  
5:45 PM Building & Grounds Committee  
6:00 PM Music & Arts Committee  
6:30 PM Stewardship

Tues., Dec. 6

11:00 AM Salisbury Belles  
4:15 PM Chorister Choir  
5:00 PM Bicentennial Committee  
6:30 PM First Friends

Wed., Dec. 7

7:00 PM Social Action; Compassionate Friends  
9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group; Jericho Road; TABCOM  
7:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery  
7:30 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship

Thurs., Dec. 8

9:30 AM Central Baptist Clergy Ministers  
6:15 PM First Handbells  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir  
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Fri., Dec. 9

**Poinsettia Display Set Up**

3:15 PM Girl Scouts



Sat., Dec. 10

7:00 PM **Jericho Road Holiday Concert & Reception**

9:00 AM First Friends

2:00 PM Choral Evensong Rehearsal

2:30 PM Arlene Alexander Memorial Service

Sun., Dec. 11

8:30 AM Breakfast; Nursery Opens; Choir

Warm-up

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:10 AM Adult Forum: **WPI Plans**



4:00 PM **Candlelight Choral Evensong "Lessons & Carols"**