

# Christ



*Precious candle  
of fulfillment,  
work Your  
perfect peace  
in our lives,  
increase our wisdom,  
teach us to number  
our days as we  
light our wicks  
and offer our  
flames to You.*

*Jesus increased  
in wisdom  
and stature,  
and in favour  
with God  
and man.*

*Luke 2:52*

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

First Baptist Church of Worcester, MA

December 24, 2008

7:30 PM

PRELUDE	Of the Father's Love Begotten	Craig Phillips b. 1961
	Noel on <i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	Larry Visser b. 1962
	Songs of the Cradle	Mark Lochstampfor b. 1956
	Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep	James Biery b. 1956

*As you listen, let the music fill your soul with the love and joy of Jesus.  
Tonight, we celebrate his birth. Give God thanks for this wonderful gift of love.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Tonight, let us celebrate Christmas in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who came to us from the heart of God's own being taking the form of a servant. Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus, to bring light to all the world. May love be reborn in our hearts this night. Let us worship God.

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PROCESSIONAL CAROL 183 Once in Royal David's City Irby  
*Stanza 1, solo*  
*Stanza 2, choir*  
*\*Congregation will stand and sing stanzas 3 and 4.*

## \*INVOCATION (Unison)

Loving and generous God, we praise and thank you for the joys of this Christmas:  
the music and the singing  
the gathering of family and friends,  
the gifts we give and receive.

We thank you most of all for your great gift to us – the child Jesus. May Christ's Spirit of love fill our hearts to overflowing. May Christ's Spirit of peace be upon everyone, everywhere. AMEN.

## SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38

ANTHEM	Suo Gan <i>Sleep My Baby</i>	George Guest 1924-2002
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SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-24

JOSEPH SPEAKS

David Story

CAROL 179 Joy to the World!

Antioch

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

MARY SPEAKS

Lynne Carroll

ANTHEM Wexford Carol

Peter Neidmann  
b. 1960

THE INNKEEPER SPEAKS

Heather Kattan

\*CAROL 203 Away in a Manger

Away in a Manger

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20

THE SHEPHERD SPEAKS

Jack McDaniel

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

*This evening's offering is going to the Heifer Learning Center at Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA.  
The gifts of hats, coats, and gloves will be donated  
to the Victory Center on 371 Pleasant Street, Worcester  
We appreciate your generous giving.*

Offertory Ah, Bleak and Chill the Wintry Wind

Alfred Burt  
1920-1954

\*Doxology

Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendor see.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

\*Prayer of Dedication

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*(Continued on back page)*

## SPREADING THE LIGHT

*Jesus is the light of the world. As his followers we are called to receive his light and carry him into the darkness of today. Watch the light grow as each of us receives the light of Christ.*

## BENEDICTION

\*CAROL Silent Night! Holy Night!

Stille Nacht

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, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! 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; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

\*Those who are able may stand.

## PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders:

Thomas R. McKibbens, Senior Minister, First Baptist Church  
Heather Kattan, Minister of Youth & Education, First Baptist Church

Musicians:

Dina Martinelli, soprano  
The Chancel Choir  
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts  
Barclay Wood, Minister of Music & Arts Emeritus