



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

The First Baptist Church

A Welcoming and Affirming Church

Worcester, Massachusetts

December 6, 2009



December 6, 200910:00 AM

Please turn pagers and cell phones to silent mode.
Nursery care is available for children during the worship service.
Please speak to one of the ushers for assistance.

PRELUDE *What Child Is This?* Richard Purvis
b. 1913
Comfort, Comfort Now My People..... John Leavitt
b. 1956

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 155** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*Genevan 42

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** The Petrangelo Family

Reader 1: Be still and know that I am God, says the Lord. [silence]
Reader 2: Be still and quiet, O people of God, and the Spirit of God, like a trembling deer, will venture into the clearing of your heart.

People: We have rushed around our world like dazzled children on the morning of gifts rushing from one half-opened present to another.

Reader 1: It is not so with those who wait upon God. For only in the silence of her heart did Mary hear the angel speak, and only under the silence of the stars did the shepherds hear the gathered hosts break forth in song.

Reader 2: Blessed are the people who wait upon God, who feast in silent gladness upon the bread of salvation and share the goodness of their blessing with fellow travelers who, like themselves, know the wealth of God’s mercy and the poverty of their own emptiness.

People: You have called, O God, and we have come. You have blessed, and we have responded.

Reader 1: The Advent of Christ is at hand. We light this candle in confidence and in peace.

ALL: All glory, laud, and honor be to God, who like a mother gathering her children calls us together in grace. God’s love and mercy cannot be defeated as we await the unfolding of God’s world of peace. In the spirit of Christ, we pray as he taught: Our Father... (debt)

***GLORIA PATRI 734** Greatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Heather Kattan

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory *Lost in the Night*..... Melius Christiansen

...doth the heathen yet languish, 1871-1955

Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,

Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish:

Will not day come soon?

Must he be vainly awaiting the morrow?

Shall we who have it no light let him borrow?

Giving no heed to his burden of sorrow:

Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing brother, in darkness yet dwelling,

Dawned hath the day of a radiance excelling,

Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling:

Christ is coming soon!

Light o'er the land of the heathen is beaming,

Rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,

Millions yet sigh for the Savior redeeming:

Come and save us soon!

***Doxology 34** Old Hundredth

***Prayer of Dedication**

O COME, LITTLE CHILDRENIhr Kinderlein Kommet

O come, little children, o come, one and all, to Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.

And see with rejoicing this glorious sight, the Christ, our redeemer, our joy, and delight!

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDRENHeather Kattan

(Children who desire to participate in a Children's Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Children's Message.)

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:67-79 (pg. 832)

COMMUNION MEDITATION *Investing in Peace*.....Thomas R. McKibbens

***COMMUNION HYMN [insert]** Now Bless the God of Israel.....Forest Green

(Continued on next page)

A SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Thomas R. McKibbens & Heather Kattan

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

SanctusFranz Schubert
1797-1828

The Passing of the Bread and Wine

O Bread of Life from Heaven.....David Ashley White
b. 1944

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

***CLOSING HYMN 184** What Child Is This Greensleeves

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *The Holly and the Ivy*..... Herbert Sumsion
1899-1995

**Those who are able may stand.*

Chancel Choir

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

If you are visiting for the first time today:



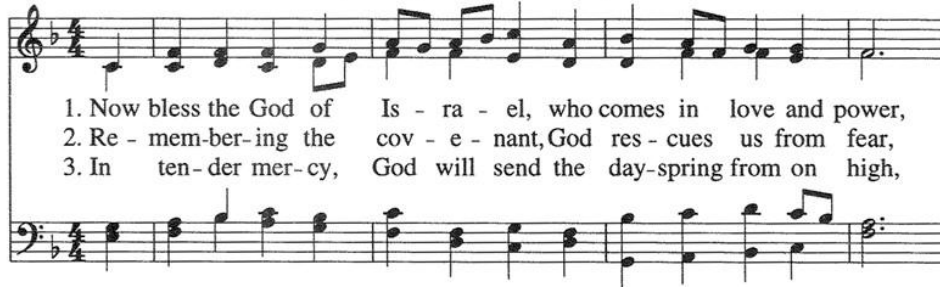
**Welcome
Visitors!**

Join us for fellowship in Gordon Hall following the service. You can enjoy refreshments, meet members of this congregation, and learn about the many programs of this church. Gordon Hall is located by exiting the sanctuary through the double doors near the pulpit. Enter Gordon Hall by the first door on the left in the hallway.

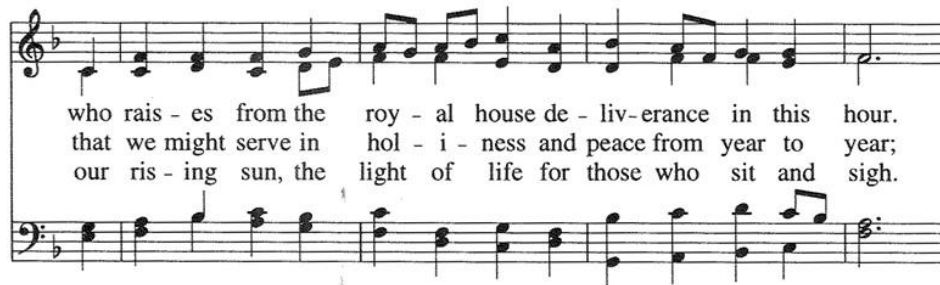
If you are searching for a church home, we would love to get to know you. Please speak with the pastor, Thomas R. McKibbens, or call to speak with him during the week at 508-755-6143.

*Those with infants are welcome to take them to the Nursery.
Please ask one of the ushers to assist you.*

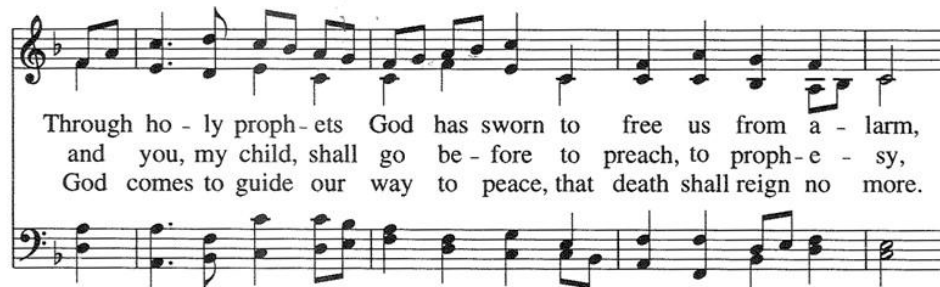
Now Bless the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah)



1. Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
2. Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
3. In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day-spring from on high,



who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv-erance in this hour.
that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.



Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
and you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.



to save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1985

MUSIC: Traditional English melody, coll., arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906

FOREST GREEN

CMD

This is a paraphrase of Luke 1:68-79, the traditional 'Benedictus' – Zechariah's song of praise on the birth of John (the Baptist). It is filled with Messianic hope.

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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.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE & PROGRAMS

WE WELCOME YOU...to the Morning Worship of the First Baptist Church. If you are a guest, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out the Welcome Card found in the pew rack. We are honored by your presence and hope you will return whenever you are able. The congregation of First Baptist Church, believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, embraces persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, denomination, cultural background, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. We welcome everyone to participate in the membership, life, worship, and activities of this church.

HEARING AIDS, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND CHILDREN'S BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE... Please speak with one of our ushers for assistance.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's arrangements are dedicated by Natalie and David Aalto in celebration of Marjorie and William Ness and the extraordinary music they bring to us during this season of joy.

SUNDAY EDUCATION SCHEDULE

8:00 AM: Bible & Bagels I

8:45 AM: Continental Breakfast Served

9:00 AM: Bible & Bagels II, Church School

10:00 AM: Morning Worship

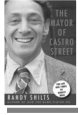
11:00 AM: Coffee and...

11:20 AM: Forum, AB Kids, Mini-Chorister Choir



Youth Group: See bulletin announcements as well as posted schedule for meeting times and activity.

SCROGIN GREAT BOOK FORUM TODAY... will base its discussion on Randy Shilts' book *The Mayor of Castro Street—the Life and Times of Harvey Milk*. You are invited to attend a lively discussion on the power of one person, gay political rights, and the public's response. This is a welcoming and affirming event in a Welcoming and Affirming church. Join us in the Roy Room immediately following Morning Worship. Light refreshments will be available. Jim Pease will lead the discussion.



YOUTH GROUP TODAY... The Youth Group is taking responsibility for some of the tags on the Angel Giving Tree this year! Meet in the Lee Room at 11:30 AM. We will then go shopping for gifts that match what is written on some of the Angel Giving Tree tags. Receive the joy of being able to share the Christmas spirit with those who are in need. Lunch provided, completed permission slip required for those under age 18.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER THIS EVENING AT 5:00 PM... Tickets for this evening's Annual Christmas Dinner can be purchased following Morning Worship in Gordon Hall. The price is \$12.50 for adults, \$6.25 for children under age ten, with a \$30.00 per family maximum. For this you will receive a wonderful meal including Spiral Cut Ham, Molded Cranberry Fruit Salad, Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Dinner Rolls and Dessert, followed by seasonal musical entertainment. Join us and get into the spirit of the season!



ANNUAL CHORAL EVENSONG... A service of Lessons and Carols with the Chancel Choir and participation by FBC Members and Clergy on Sunday, **December 13, 2009 at 4:00 PM**. Please note change in time from previous years. *We will receive an offering to benefit AIDS Project Worcester, Inc.*

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE... will take place on Wednesday, **December 16, 2009 at 7:00 PM** in the Davis Chapel, sponsored by the Park Congregational Church. Here is the perfect occasion to take respite from the hectic pace of the season in a quiet and meditative atmosphere, and reflect on the wonderful message of the birth of Christ and all that his birth signifies, no matter what is going on in your life. You will have opportunity to light a candle and offer a heartfelt prayer, and to partake of Communion. Come and spend a quiet hour communion with God and God's people. *Please enter the Chapel through the Park Avenue entrance.*




PRAYER...



Prayer is exhaling the spirit of man and inhaling the spirit of God.


~Edwin Keith

Please pray for:

- Our church families as we worship at church and at home this Advent season
- Today's Annual Christmas Dinner and Program
- The Skein of Knitters and the Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Victims of disaster, war, violence, accident
- Those with chronic disease
- Each of those known to be shut-in or in a care facility
- Those with life-threatening illnesses
- Those who grieve
- The unemployed, the homeless, the hungry, the lonely
- People who are undergoing medical testing
- Students who need extra support and encouragement
- Families needing harmony, stability, peace, and hope
- The wisdom of world leaders.

PRAYER MAIL BOXES...are located: (1) at the Salisbury Street entrance nearest  the parking lot, (2) by the elevator at the Sanctuary level, and (3) at the building entrance by the Church Office. You are encouraged to place your **Prayer Request Cards** (found in pew racks and at each mailbox) in any of the mailboxes for the Pastor and the Prayer Fellowships to include in their prayers.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA...Remember loved ones by sharing in the Christmas  Sunday display of poinsettia plants. A special insert on Sunday,  December 20 will list the names of those in whose memory plants have been donated. Following the Sunday Worship service, plants are delivered to our shut-ins by volunteers. Please see the display in Gordon Hall for an order form with details!

 **HANDBELL EXTRAVAGANZA...**on **Friday, December 18, 2009, 7:30 PM** in our Sanctuary with **THREE** handbell choirs participating: First Baptist Church of Holden; Wesley Ringers from Wesley UMC in Worcester; and our own First Handbells. Each choir will ring several works, along with joining all together for a final massed ring of "He is Born" by Kevin McChesney. Carol singing with bells is also on the program. Dessert will be served after the concert in Gordon Hall. *This will be the only festive handbell concert in Worcester this Christmas so don't miss it!* **FREE.**

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, Dec. 6, 2009	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
	8:00 AM	B&B Session I
	8:45 AM	Continental Breakfast
	9:00 AM	B&B Session II; Church School
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	11:20 AM	Scrogin Forum; AB Kids
	11:30 AM	Youth Group
	5:00 PM	Annual Christmas Dinner
Mon., Dec. 7, 2009	12:00 PM	PEO Dinner
	5:45 PM	Buildings & Grounds
Tue., Dec. 8, 2009		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE
	10:00 AM	Weekly Staff Meeting; Skein of Knitters; Benevolence (mailing)
	4:00 PM	Chorister Choir
	5:00 PM	Habitat Christmas Party
	6:30 PM	First Friends
	7:00 PM	Governing Board; Worcester Interfaith
Wed., Dec. 9, 2009	9:00 AM	Women's Prayer Fellowship; Lit. Volunteers
	10:00 AM	First Friends; CBMM
	5:00 PM	Pastoral Relations
	7:00 PM	Evening Prayer Fellowship; Food Addicts in Recovery
Thu., Dec. 10, 2009	9:00 AM	Literacy Volunteers; TABCOM
	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee
	6:15 PM	First Handbells
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., Dec. 11, 2009	3:15 PM	Girls Scouts
Sat., Dec. 12, 2009	2:00 PM	Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal
Sun., Dec. 13, 2009		THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
	8:00 AM	B&B Session I
	8:45 AM	Continental Breakfast
	9:00 AM	B&B Session II; Church School
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	11:20 AM	Christmas Carol Sing
	4:00 PM	Annual Choral Evensong

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