

Remarkable Redeemer,

*What kind
of love is this...
so deep it
casts out fear,
so great it
dispels all
darkness,
so gentle it
lives and walks
with us,
so beautiful
all we can say is...*

*Thank You,
Jesus!*

*Every good
and perfect gift
is from above.*

James 1:17 (NIV)



Morning Worship

Communion

Second Sunday in Advent — Pearl Harbor Day

December 7, 2008 10:00 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 Three settings of *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*.. Georg Böhm
1661-1733
Max Drischner
1891-1971
Michael Burkhardt
b. 1957

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

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**Sarah Sams & Jess Landry

Leader: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

People: As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Leader: Enlighten us with your grace that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

All: Grant this in the spirit of Christ our Lord, whose day draws near! AMEN! [Second candle is lit.]

***INVOCATION (unison)**

O God, the advent of a Savior was proclaimed of old by souls sensitive to your Spirit. Then Christ came at last in ways that no one expected. Loving God, keep us alert to the surprising ways Christ enters our world today. Open our minds, warm our hearts, cleanse our souls, and keep our imaginations alert. Should you choose again a stable as your gateway to the world, grant that we may not be blind to your glory or deaf to your word. In the spirit of Christ our Lord we pray: Our Father...(debts).

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Thomas R. McKibbens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Brenda Baker

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS..... Heather Kattan

Offertory Anthem And the Glory of the Lord, from *Messiah*Georg Handel
1685-1759

***Doxology 34**.....Old Hundredth

***Prayer of Dedication**

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-11 (pg. 581)..... Heather Kattan

Isaiah proclaims to Israel that despite their present circumstances, God has not abandoned them. God will intervene with salvation and deliverance, and make a way home.

Unison Reading of Psalm 85:4-13 (pg. 473)..... Brenda Baker

Mark 1:1-8 (pg. 812)

John the Baptist opens Mark's gospel with a scorching sermon in the Judean wilderness. John calls on people to change, and as a sign of that change, to be baptized.

LET THE CHILDREN COME..... Cradle Song

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in they tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN..... Heather Kattan

(Children may return to their seats following the Message.)

ANTHEM Comfort, Comfort Now My People..... David Ashley White

b. 1944

COMMUNION MEDITATION *Returning Home*.... Thomas R. McKibbens

***COMMUNION HYMN 190** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ... Es Ist Ein Ros'

A SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus Franz Schubert

1797-1828

Passing of the Bread and Wine

When God Is a Child..... John Carter

b. 1930

Passing of the Peace and "Blest Be the Tie"

***CLOSING HYMN 158** Blessed Be the God of Israel..... Merle's Tune

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Fantasia on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Alec Rowley

1892-1958

**Those who are able may stand.*

Chancel Choir

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUES 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

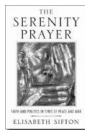
WE WELCOME YOU...to the Morning Worship of the First Baptist Church. If you are a guest, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out the Welcome Card found in the pew rack. We are honored by your presence and hope you will return whenever you are able. The congregation of First Baptist 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 AVAILABLE DURING THE SERVICE...If you would like to take advantage of our hearing aids, please speak with one of our ushers, who will explain this simple yet effective device.

LARGE PRINT BULLETIN AVAILABLE...with the Order of Service. Please speak with one of our ushers to receive a copy.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's floral arrangements are donated by Natalie Graham, in loving remembrance of Edna H. Graham. ✨

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION...Children will remain in the worship service following the Children's Message in order to experience communion. Please be understanding as we try this arrangement as part of their Christian Education. *Activity books are available upon request from our ushers.* Nursery and preschool will continue as usual. Should a child need to leave the service, you may take them to the preschool classroom during this time.



SCROGIN FORUM TODAY...The Forum will discuss *The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War*, by Elisabeth Sifton (daughter of Reinhold Niebuhr, credited with authoring the Serenity Prayer). Join us in the Roy Room at 11:15 AM.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT BRIARWOOD TODAY!

Meet us in the Lee room for lunch at 12:30 PM. We will depart for Briarwood at 1:30 PM and return from Briarwood around 2:30 PM.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA...Share in the Christmas Sunday display of poinsettia plants by donating a plant in memory of a loved one. The bulletin will list the names of those in whose memory plants have been donated. The plants are then delivered to our shut-ins by volunteers, following the Choral Evensong. Please complete the order form found in the December Newsletter, in the Church Office, or in Gordon Hall, and **return it with your check by NEXT SUNDAY December 14, 2008.**



GIVING TREE GIFTS...Many thanks to everyone who selected tags from the Angel Giving Tree! Remember to return the wrapped gift(s) to the Church Office with the gift tag securely attached **by NEXT SUNDAY, December 14.** The DCF social workers will pick up the gifts and distribute them to the children. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated!



JOIN US THIS SEASON...Please come to a Christmas Choral Evensong Service of Lessons and Carols on December 21, 2008 at 5:00 PM. The featured work this year is *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten with harpist Lira Cady. Conducted by William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts.



LAST DAY to GET TICKETS
for The Annual Christmas Dinner!
December 14 at 5:00 PM
Adults \$12; Children under 12 \$6.00;
\$35 per Family

Adult Forum on December 14, 2008:

Dr. Lynda Jordan, M.Div. will speak about a subject important to all of us and an issue most of us have faced: Prayer, God, Health, and Healing. Does God hear our prayers when we pray for sick loved ones? She will share insights about curing, healing, faith, and the power of God in our illness. Please plan to stay for this lively and important session. Meet us in the Lee Room at 11:15 AM. Sponsored by the Health Cabinet.

Dr. Jordan is a well respected speaker who has lectured at Harvard, Andover Newton, and other leading schools.



URGENT NEEDS FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES...The following items are needed as soon as possible: mattress, bed frame, pots and pans, winter coats, sweaters, and blankets. In addition, there is a growing need for transportation from the Belmont Street, Mt. Vernon Street and Hammond Street areas. **Please contact Warren Jones at home [978-368-1310]**

HOPE FOR HOUSING—FOR THE HOLIDAYS...We hope you are already in the habit of buying HOPE FOR HOUSING cards for all of your weekly grocery needs! During this holiday season, we encourage you to do ALL of your holiday shopping this way as well—and perhaps consider purchasing grocery cards to slip into your greeting cards, or to donate to a local food pantry. We will have a supply of \$10 card in stock for this purpose, and if you have a specific need for cards, please let us know so we may have them ready for you the following Sunday. Remember, you will get full card value for your grocery shopping, and the store contributes 5% of each sale to the emergency fund administered by the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance for families with children who are at risk of homelessness.



CHRISTMAS TREES: Due to the rising wholesale cost of Christmas trees, our continuing need for more volunteers, as well as competition from large discount stores, **THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WILL NOT OFFER CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE THIS YEAR.** Look for other fund-raising activities sponsored by the Youth Group during the year ahead!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING...The Victory Center sends thanks to everyone who partnered to make Thanksgiving possible for those in need. The Bread of Life Food Pantry distributed 211 turkeys with complete Thanksgiving Dinner fixings. We could not have done so without your assistance—many thanks!

ANOTHER THANK YOU...to everyone who helped out with the ADVENT WORKSHOP this past Sunday. It was wonderful to kick off the holiday season with a time of fun, fellowship, and crafting!



A YOUTH “SAVE THE DATE”...for the Youth Christmas Party on December 21, 2008! Details to come...

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES...will be held at 5:00 PM and **7:30 PM** this year. The first service, primarily for families with children, will be held in Gordon Hall, where the children will present a short version of the nativity story. The second service is our traditional ***Candlelight Service***, with carol singing, held in the Sanctuary. **In both services, we will collect warm hats, gloves, scarves, and coats, for the Victory center in Worcester.** Please plan to attend!

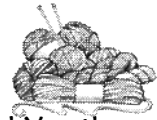
Prayer...

*Lord, grant me a simple, kind, open, believing, loving, and generous heart,
worthy of being your dwelling place.*

~John Sergieff, 1829-1908

Please include in your prayers...

- Our church families in worship this Advent Season
- Those who have been recently bereaved
- People who are receiving medical testing or treatment
- Ingeborg and Walter Kojalo, Peg Gowetz, Betsy Minott, Cheryl Goff, Audrey Terpo
- The Scrogin Forum; Skein of Knitters, Governing Board; Literacy Volunteers, Nominating Committee
- The Youth Group; Church School; leaders of Children and Youth
- The Annual Christmas Dinner; Choral Evensong



Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 17, 2008—7:00 PM

There are many for whom the holiday season is a bittersweet or sad time of the year. Various losses or other life circumstances can make parties, gift-giving, and celebrations hard to take. If this is the case for you, you are not alone. Join together with others for the *Blue Christmas* service, a time of prayer, quietness, beauty, and hope. Communion will be served, and there will be an opportunity to light a candle and say a prayer for whatever lies heavy on the heart. This service is sponsored by the Park Congregational Church, and takes place in the Davis Chapel at 7:00 PM. Please enter the Chapel through the Park Avenue entrance.



The First Baptist Church Mission Statement

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



OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, December 7 — Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM & 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School; Scrogin Forum

12:30 PM Youth Group Caroling @ Briarwood

Tue., December 9

10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting; Skein of Knitters

12:00 PM Salisbury Belles

4:00 PM Children's Choir

5:15 PM Health Cabinet

6:30 PM First Friends; Habitat

7:00 PM Governing Board

7:30 PM Benevolence

Wed., December 10

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Fellowship

12:00 PM Salisbury Belles

3:00 PM Alliance of Baptists

6:30 PM Habitat

7:00 PM Park Cong.: Food Addicts in Recovery

7:30 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship

Thu., December 11

9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers

6:00 PM Nominating Committee

6:15 PM First Handbells

6:30 PM Habitat

7:30 PM Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous

Fri., December 12

3:15 PM Brownies

Sun., December 14 — Third Sunday in Advent

Poinsettia orders are due, Giving Tree gifts are due

8:00 AM & 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum

5:00 PM Annual Christmas Dinner & Program

The First Baptist Church

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