

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.



November 27, 2011

10:00 AM

PRELUDE *Adagio* from 2nd Symphony..... Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 176** Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty GatesTruro

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Leader: God of Hope, we enter this season of Advent, and our hearts echo the ancient church's plea: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

People: Come into these days too filled and hours too hurried and be our peace.

Leader: Come into this troubled and anxious time, and be our hope.

People: Come into this season of light and be our soul's true light.

Leader: Come into this time of celebration and be our joy.

People: Come into our lives and be with us, now and forevermore.

ALL: Come, and be EMMANUEL—God with us, God for us. Amen!

*** INVOCATION (Unison)**

Loving God, your light and love searches the depths of our hearts. Prepare us, we pray, for your coming. Fill our souls with humility, as we remember before you the things we ought not to have done, and the good things left undone. Purify our thoughts; strengthen our wills; kindle again in us the spirit of devotion; and above all, lift us into your very presence, so that, consecrated anew to your service, we may, with gladness and serenity, follow in the footsteps of him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray... Our Father...

**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.

*** GLORIA PATRI 734**.....Creatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see .
All I have needed thy hand has provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

ANTHEM *Andante*..... Camille Saint-Saens

CELEBRATION OF THE CHILDREN

Following the celebration, children are invited to join their worship leader for Children's Worship.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE.....Mark 13: 32-37 (P. 826)

ANTHEM *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*..... T. Frederick H. Candlyn

SERMON *Journey of Encouragement*Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 65** *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*Dundee

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory

*** Doxology** Old Hundredth
*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**

*** HYMN 154** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*Veni Emmanuel

*** BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Praeludium In C*..... J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Robert Wilson, Director & Organist
Chancel Choir

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.

OUR GUEST ORGANIST & DIRECTOR TODAY IS ...Robert Wilson who has been the organist at Covent Baptist Church in New York City for over eighteen years. We have been most fortunate to have received Bob's musical gifts and leadership on several Sundays during the Sabbatical of William Ness (who will be back with us next Sunday, December 4th.)

ADVENT WORKSHOP IS TODAY...Our traditional Advent Workshop held on the first Sunday of Advent, will be in Gordon Hall following worship service. The workshop is a time for crafts, creativity, fun and fellowship. We are grateful to Paula Harvey for stepping in to coordinate the workshop this year!

THE ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS...Was held on the morning of November 23rd starting off with a hearty home-cooked breakfast by John Belanger. Afterwards, everyone went to work hanging wreaths, setting up trees, decorating the Sanctuary and much more. We tried to combine decorating with some much needed cleaning and sprucing up and are grateful to everyone who came to lend their time and talents.

PRAYER... "The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayers, but unoffered prayers." F. B. Meyer

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

The Stewardship challenge given to First Baptist Church members and friends.

Celebration of last Sunday's Living Gift Market & Benevolence Ministries.

Celebration of the 50 Year members of First Baptist Church

The Diaconate; The New Century Committee

Each who travels and gathers for the giving of thanks.

Donald Crosby, Evelyn Manierre, Betty Bennett, Judith Fuqere, Roberta Fitch, Marion Anderson

Care Givers

The many people who are suffering from persistent illnesses.

The Leaders of the World.

Those who need the basics for living, as well as unconditional love.

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.

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR THE CHANCEL ...there are several opening for flower donations for the altar for Sunday morning. Please consider donating either one or two urns in memory or in celebration of a loved one.

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

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

122 Diner (across from Wachusett High School)

1392 Main Street

Holden, MA

Any Questions: Contact Tom Ward @ tward@oxps.org

FBC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER...is **December 4th** at 5:00 PM, and is being planned and prepared by the FBC Christmas Dinner Committee, Lynne Carroll, Chair. The menu will be: Roast Pork or a vegetarian option, carrots and beans, salad, and gingerbread with lemon and cream. Tickets are \$12.00 per adult, \$6.00 per child, and will be sold in Gordon Hall following Morning Worship each Sunday. Of course, there will be entertainment, too!

JERICO ROAD WORCESTER - HOLIDAY BENEFIT CONCERT...featuring Maria Ferrante (soprano) and Will Sherwood (keyboard artist), with Rafael Popper-Keizer (cello), Friday, **December 9**, 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. This is the 3rd year for this beautiful concert to benefit the nonprofit JRW. JRW matches the professional skills of volunteers with the needs of nonprofit organizations. Mary Frandsen is the JRW Chairperson.

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 is asking 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. Lets try to fill every branch this year. The mittens will go to families associated with the Head Start Program. The last date to donate them is **December 18th**.

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.

This Week at First Baptist Church

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

TODAY, Nov 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM Breakfast; Nursery Opens; Choir Warm-up
9:00 AM Bible & Bagels; Sunday School
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Advent Workshop

Mon., Nov 28

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Tues., Nov 29

4:15 PM Choristers
6:00 PM Nominating Committee

Wed., Nov 30

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group
7:00 PM Food Addicts Recovery

Thurs., Dec. 1

10:30 AM Literacy Volunteer
6:15 PM First Handbells
7:30 PM Chancel Choir
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Fri., Dec. 2

3:15 PM Girl Scouts

Sat., Dec. 3

8:00 AM Men' Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 AM Christmas Dinner Committee - Set-Up

Sun., Dec. 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT /COMMUNION

8:30 AM Breakfast; Nursery Opens
9:00 AM Bible & Bagels; Sunday School; Choir warm-up
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Advent Workshop
11:10 AM Scrogin Forum
5:00 PM 2011 Christmas Dinner