



*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**

**November 29, 2009**

# MORNING WORSHIP



**November 29, 2009 ..... 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** *Savior of the Nations, Come* .....J.S. Bach  
1685-1750

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 176** *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* .....Truro

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** ..... The Samborski Family

The bounty of summer has been harvested. The birds have fled south. The leaves have fallen from the trees. The cold winds blow, and all nature stands shorn of her riches.

**O Lord, in this season of expectation and waiting, strip from our hearts all anxiety and worldly distractions so that we may be pure and open vessels to receive the precious gift you have promised us.**

As certain as the coming dawn, as reliable as the stars on a wintry night, so are the promises of God. So we enter Advent, the season of waiting. Yet even as we wait, we are already blessed.

**As we wait upon your gifts, let us use the gifts you have already bestowed upon us. We light this first candle of Advent to remind us of our calling to serve and to heal, to minister and to console, to be truth-tellers and hope-dealers. Empower us to be your co-workers in bringing to reality the promises you have made to humanity. In the spirit of Christ, we pray as he taught: Our Father... (debts)**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** .....Heather Kattan

**GREETING ONE ANOTHER 218**.....Go, Tell It

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.  
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

**ANTHEM Remember, O Thou Man** .....Thomas Ravenscroft

...Thy time is spent; Remember, O thou man how art dead and gone, 1582-1635  
And I did what I can: Therefore repent!  
Remember Adam's fall, O thou man from heaven to hell! Remember Adam's fall,  
How we were condemned all in hell perpetual, There for to dwell.  
Remember God's goodness, O thou man, and his promise made!  
Remember God's goodness; How he sent his Son, doubtless,  
Our sins for to redress, Be not afraid!  
The angels all did sing, O thou man, upon the shepherd's hill;  
The angels all did sing praises to our heavenly King,  
And peace to many living with a goodwill.

**O COME, LITTLE CHILDREN** .....Ihr 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 CHILDREN** .....Heather 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:** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (pg. 645)

**SERMON Investing in Hope** ..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\*HYMN 191** It Came upon the Midnight Clear..... Carol

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory O Thou the Central Orb** ..... Charles Wood

...of righteous love, pure beam of the Most High, 1866-1926  
Eternal light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith,  
hope soars above. Come, quickly comer, and let thy glory shine, gliding our  
darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy luster round thee move,  
as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as they  
sight give measured grace to each, they power to prove. Let thy bright beams  
disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall fell eternal day, In fellowship with  
Thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. AMEN.

*(Continued on next page)*

\*Doxology 34 .....Old Hundredth

\*Prayer of Dedication

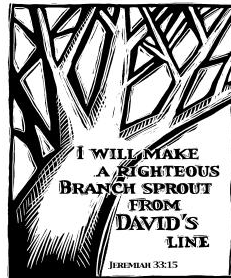
\*CLOSING HYMN 158 Blessed Be the God of Israel.....Merle's Tune

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Noel Nouvelet//Il est Né.....Gilbert Martin  
b. 1941

\*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.

## 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 Landy and David Johnson, in memory of Landy's father, Edward M. Carien and by Natalie Graham, in loving memory of Edna H. Graham.



### **\*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.**

**ADVENT WORKSHOP TODAY...**Join us directly following Morning Worship. There will be holiday crafts, snacks, and time for fellowship. ALL are welcome! This season's **ANGEL GIVING TREE** will be decorated with gift tags for children whose names were received from **YOU Inc., of Worcester**. These are children and youth in our community who are not likely to receive the items they desire or need at Christmas. Please plan to participate by observing the following **NEW guidelines**: Select a gift tag from the *Giving Tree*, purchase one or more of the suggested gifts listed (no food, candy, drink items, or cash), **leave gifts UNWRAPPED with gift tag securely attached, and return items by Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 5:00 PM.** Questions? Contact Rev. Heather Kattan. Thank you!

 **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TODAY...**Jean and Norman Mills are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary! Their sons would like to invite church members and friends to join them from 2:00—4:00 PM today in the Lee Room. No presents, please—YOUR presence will be enough. ✨

**MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...**for December will be in the Lee Room at **8:00 AM on Saturday, December 5**. We will invite the Men's Fellowship from Emmanuel Baptist Church to join us!

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER...**Tickets for the Annual Christmas Dinner to be held in Gordon Hall on **Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 5:00 PM** can be purchased today following Morning Worship, or during the week at the Church Office. 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!



**SHOPPING FOR ANGEL TREE GIFTS...**The Youth Group will take responsibility for some of the tags on the Angel Giving Tree this year! Meet in the Lee Room at 11:30 AM **on Sunday December 6, 2009**. We will then go shopping for gifts that match what is written on the tags. Receive the joy of being able to share the Christmas spirit with those who are in need. Lunch provided—**PLEASE SIGN UP** outside Heather's office. [PERMISSION SLIP NEEDED]



## **PRAYER...**

*The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.*

~Psalm 29:11

### **Please include in your prayers:**

- Today's Advent Workshop and all its volunteers
- Our church in all its ministries throughout the Advent season
- The Social Action Committee; the Benevolence Committee
- The Women's Prayer Fellowship, the Evening Prayer Fellowship
- Friend to Friend — FTF — First Tuesday Fellowship at Briarwood
- The Jericho Road Worcester ministry
- Eleanor Long, Edwin Bohlin, Madelyn and Edwin Morse, Audrey Terpo
- Caregivers
- Victims of seasonal affective disorder
- Those who endure chronic illness; those having medical procedures
- Congratulations to Jean & Norman Mills as they celebrate 60 years of marriage
- The leaders of the word — for their wisdom, goodness, and faithfulness

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIES...**a concert to benefit Jericho Road Worcester on **Friday, December 4, 2009, 7:30 PM** at First Unitarian Church on 90 Main Street. With Maria Ferrante, soprano, and Will Sherwood, piano & pipe organ. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and students, \$25.00 per family. For more information on how to obtain tickets, please contact Mary Frandsen at 508-852-8122 or [mkfrandsen@charter.net](mailto:mkfrandsen@charter.net).

*Jericho Road Worcester is sponsored by the First Baptist Church and First Unitarian Church of Worcester, MA*

**THE SCROGIN GREAT ISSUES BOOK FORUM...**on December 6, 2009 will base its discussion on Randy Shilts' book *The Mayor of Castro Street—the Life and Times of Harvey Milk*. Harvey Milk was the nation's first openly gay city official when he became San Francisco Selectman in the late 1970's. Serving less than a year before being assassinated, his story is "the story of the gay movement in San Francisco, and ultimately, the nation". You are invited to read the book, watch the movie based on the book (*MILK*, available on DVD), and 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. Please plan to attend. Join us in the Roy Room immediately following Morning Worship. Light refreshments will be available. Jim Pease will lead the discussion.

**HOPE FOR HOUSING...**Remember to stop by our table in Gordon Hall each week to make your food shopping card purchases! When used, 5% of your total purchase goes toward the prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals who are at risk of homelessness.



## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TODAY, Nov. 29, 2009

### FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 AM B&B Session I  
 8:45 AM Continental Breakfast; Chancel Choir  
 9:00 AM B&B Session II; Church School  
 10:00 AM Morning Worship  
 11:00 AM Annual ADVENT WORKSHOP  
 2:00 PM Jean & Norman Mills  
 60th Anniversary Celebration

Mon., Nov. 30, 2009

8:00 AM Worcester Interfaith

Tue., Dec. 1, 2009

10:00 AM Full Staff Meeting  
 10:30 AM Salisbury Belles  
 4:00 PM Chorister Choir  
 7:00 PM Benevolence; Social Action;  
 Compassionate Friends

Wed., Dec., 2, 2009

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Fellowship;  
 Jericho Road; Literacy Volunteers  
 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship;  
 Park Congregational; Food Addicts/Rec

Thu., Dec. 3, 2009

9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers  
 6:00 PM Nominating Committee  
 6:15 PM First Handbells  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir  
 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Fri., Dec. 4, 2009

3:15 PM Girls Scouts  
 7:30 PM JRW Winter Concert @ 1st Unitarian

Sat., Dec. 5, 2009

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Fellowship in the  
 Lee Room with Emmanuel Baptist

Sun., 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

**The First Baptist Church**  
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