

# Breath of Life,

*we leave  
our hopes,  
our dreams,  
our lives  
at Your feet,  
knowing we  
can count on  
Your strength,  
trust in Your vision,  
find joy  
in the call...  
as we open  
ourselves  
to hear Your voice.*

*I watch in hope  
for the Lord,  
I wait for God  
my Savior.*

*Micah 7:7 (NIV)*



## Morning Worship

### *First Sunday in Advent*

**November 30, 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** Savior of the Nations, Come ..... Craig Phillips  
b. 1961

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 152** Prepare the Way, O Zion  
Bereden Väg För Herran

#### **\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

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

**People:** **As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes.**

**Leader:** Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

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

#### **\*INVOCATION (unison)**

**God of Hope, to whom we turn with our deepest desires and longings; we gather together on this first Sunday of Advent to wait for you, to wish for you, and to watch for you, until the coming of the Christ child. May we be surprised again by the mystery and wonder of your grace. In the familiar sounds and sights and aromas of this season, may we experience creation's song of celebration that rings down through the ages. Help us, as we repeat the old, old stories, to hear our story, so that we may find our connection with you and your eternal purpose for all creation. We pray as Jesus taught his disciples: Our Father...(debts).**

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

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

**WORLD AIDS DAY RECOGNITION AND PRAYER** (see insert)

Thomas R. McKibbens, Brenda Baker

**ANTHEM** Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding .....Eric Thiman  
1900-1975

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 64:1-9 (pg. 606)**..... Brenda Baker

*A prayer that God would be revealed in power as in days of old.*

**Unison Reading of Psalm 80:1-7 (pg. 470)**..... Heather Kattan

*A cry for deliverance from people who felt deserted by God.*

**Mark 13:24-37 (pg. 826)** .....Ann Ming Samborski

*Jesus speaks of a day when the world will be radically changed by the power of God in its fullness.*

**LET THE CHILDREN COME**..... Root

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight;

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

**AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN**..... Heather Kattan

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

**SERMON** *All God's People!*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

**\*HYMN 167** Long Ago, Prophets Knew ..... Personent Hodie

**THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Anthem** Zion, at Thy Shining Gates ..... George Guest

1924-2002

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES**

**\*CLOSING HYMN 153** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus..... Hyfrydol

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ..... Edward Wetherill

1927-1990

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir*

*William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*

**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.*



## **AIDS AND THE POWER OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND GRACE**

*A litany written by Cathie Lyons, HIV/AIDS Ministries Network. Used with permission.*

LEADER:

We gather in the name of the crucified and risen Christ.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**Over whom death had no power and through whom there is life eternal.**

LEADER:

We gather as a remembering and a caring community.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**A community of faith and hope, united by God's love.**

LEADER:

We come to give thanks for those we love.

**PEOPLE:**

**Those who have brought joy to our lives.**

**Those we love and pray to be reunited with when the time is right.**

LEADER:

God calls to us.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**To care for one another, to be compassionate and merciful.**

LEADER:

God bless those who care.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**Bless and sustain those who care for the living and the dying:  
who search for cures, therapies and vaccines.**

**Those who respond day and night to tears, desperation and grief.**

LEADER:

We are the creation of one Creator God.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**The child who cries is every child.**

**The woman weakened and tired is every mother, wife, sister, daughter.**

**The man is every father, husband, son, and brother.**

LEADER:

AIDS leaves gaping wounds in the lives of those  
who have lost the ones they love the most.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**God, give us the strength and courage to be present in the midst of loss.**

LEADER:

Across the infinity of space and time a common heart beats in every breast.



*(Continued on page 5)*

**THE PEOPLE:**

**Forbearing pain and clinging to hope,  
we are brought to a deeper understanding of our common humanity.**

LEADER:

We are a family of nations united by our common priceless humanity.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**AIDS is a worldwide crisis in the midst of which there is no “us” and “them”.**

LEADER:

Let us confess that all are affected.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**When one of God’s creation suffers, all suffer.**

LEADER:

We know Jesus identifies with all who suffer.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**Through our faith in Him, healing and wholeness take place.**

LEADER:

When we care for a person who has AIDS, we show that we love Christ.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**To touch, to bathe, to feed, to clothe one who is ill,  
is to do this unto Jesus Christ.**

LEADER:

Today we are called to be a joyful and thankful people.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**Upheld by God’s goodness and grace,  
which has the power to disarm AIDS.**

LEADER:

In thankfulness, we commit ourselves to being a caring,  
justice-seeking, nurturing community.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**We welcome into our community and our church all persons whose lives  
have been touched by HIV and AIDS.**

**We say to all: “You are welcome here.”**

**We will care for one another and love one another.**

**We will be Christ’s presence in each other’s lives,  
and will witness God’s unconditional love.**

LEADER:

Through Christ’s example, we are made finer, gentler, and stronger.

**THE PEOPLE:**

**Through Christ, our Savior, and the power of God’s goodness and grace, we  
are free to love, to seek justice, and to become all God intends. AMEN.**

## **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 Martha Aney in celebration of the 98th birthday of her mother, Esther Johnson Badger, on December 1, and by Charity and Mark Rinker in celebration of Ella McCollum Parker's 96th birthday on December 9. ❀

**ADVENT WORKSHOP TODAY...**with be holiday crafts, snacks, and time for fellowship. ALL are invited to join us! We will also have the **Angel Giving Tree**, decorated with gift tags for children and youth whose names were received from the Department of Children & Families of Massachusetts.  **Look for the Giving Tree during the Workshop**, select a tag or two, purchase one or more of the suggested gifts, then **return the wrapped gift(s) to the Church Office with the gift tag securely attached by Sunday, December 14.** The DCF social workers will pick up the gifts and distribute them to the children. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

**FLU SHOTS TODAY...** Flu shots for those who signed-up in advance will be administered today in the **Krueger Room** following Morning Worship. Please wear a short-sleeved shirt/blouse, or one which has easy to roll up sleeves. We are no longer taking names, however if there is any vaccine available after we have completed the list, we will try to accommodate you. Sponsored by the FBC Health Cabinet.



**CHILDREN AND COMMUNION...** On Sunday, December 7, the children will not depart for Children's Worship, but remain in the worship service in order to experience communion. Please be understanding as we try this arrangement as part of their Christian Education. Activity books will be 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.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING...** The Youth Group will perform Christmas carols for the residents at Briarwood on Sunday, December 7. 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. Please **sign-up or contact Heather by Wednesday, December 3**, so that she may arrange transportation!



**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 December 14, 2008**.



**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.



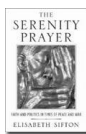
**DON'T FORGET TO GET TICKETS  
for The Annual Christmas Dinner  
December 14 at 5:00 PM!  
\$12 Adults; \$6.00 Children under 12;  
\$35 Family**

**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.



**THANK YOU...**A big “THANK YOU” to everyone who donated non-perishable food items and helped out serving at the Mustard Seed. Your generosity of pocket, time, and spirit will help out the many who are in need during these difficult times.

**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!



**SCROGIN FORUM NEXT SUNDAY...**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.

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**A PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY...**The seventh annual GOODS FOR GUNS program will be held this year on **Saturday, December 6** at the Worcester Department of Health and Human Services on 35 Meade Street and on **Saturday, December 20** at the Worcester Police Headquarters, 911 Lincoln Street, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM each day. The GOODS FOR GUNS program offers Worcester residents the opportunity to turn in unwanted or unneeded guns. Through our sponsoring partners, we are able to offer gift certificates in return, together with educational materials regarding gun safety, responsible ownership, and prevention of gun violence. Help us to make this holiday season a safe and blessed one for our community.

### **Prayer...**

*Lord, I believe my life is touch by you, that you want something for me, and of me.  
Give me ears to hear you, eyes to see the tracing of your finger, and a heart quickened  
by the motions of your Spirit.*

~Ted Loder

### **Please include in your prayers...**

- Our church congregation as it embraces all persons
- Thanksgiving for our Interfaith Service of Thanks sponsored by the Elm Park Ministries
- Pastor Thomas McKibbens, William Ness, Heather Kattan, and Brenda Baker in their ministry at FBC
- The families of Mary Johnson and Nancy Burgess
- The boards, committees, and fellowships of FBC as each endeavors to minister with inspiration, wisdom, and joy
- Shirley Keddy, Ingeborg Kojalo, Cheryl Goff, Madelyn Morse, Arlene Alexander
- Those who are caregivers
- Each person who is ill, hospitalized, or in the course of treatment
- Congratulations to Andrea and Steven Letourneau on the adoption of Zachary, brother of Joshua
- Congratulations to Doris Whittle, celebrating her 102nd birthday on December 1, 2008



### **Please Note:**

The Women's Prayer Fellowship and The Evening Prayer Fellowship will resume at their regular meeting times on Wednesday, December 3, in the Roy Room.

"Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may  
be saved."  
Psalm 80:3



## OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

### Sun. November 30 — First Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM & 9:00 AM Bible & Bagels  
10:00 AM Worship  
11:15 AM Advent Workshop, Angel Giving Tree;  
Flu Shots

*Rehearsal for “Angelic Mission Impossible” follows Advent Workshop  
No Sunday School, Adult Forum, or Youth Group*

### Mon., December 1 — WORLD AIDS DAY ☿

5:45 PM Buildings & Grounds  
6:00 PM PEO  
7:00 PM Habitat  
7:15 PM Music & Arts Committee

Tue., December 2 10:00 AM Full Staff Meeting; First Friends  
1:00 PM Salisbury Belles  
4:00 PM Children’s Choir  
7:00 PM Social Action Committee;  
Compassionate Friends

Wed., December 3 9:00 AM Women’s Prayer Fellowship  
7:00 PM Park Cong.: Food Addicts in Recovery  
7:30 PM Evening Prayer Fellowship

Thu., December 4 9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers  
6:00 PM Nominating Committee  
6:15 PM First Handbells  
7:00 PM DCF Training Session  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous

Fri., December 5 — Newsletter Deadline for JANUARY ISSUE  
11:00 AM Memorial Service for Mary Johnson

Sat. December 6 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast at Lincoln St. Bickford’s

### Sun., 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