

First Baptist Church

December 24th, 2015
Five O'Clock in the Evening
Christmas Eve

Music for Gathering Kay Greene

Prelude *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman*
(Guest Violinist Ivana Carlson)

Choral Introit *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*
Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill ev'ry day we share, and bring us at last into glory.
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Lighting of the Christ Candle Stephen, Nancy, Emily, and Wes Brady
As night falls, and the shadows grow long, we wait in hopeful expectation for
the coming light.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the child of God appear.**

As war and violence swirl around us, we watch for the coming Prince of Peace.
**O come, desire of Nations, bind all people in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.**

As we struggle amid the shadows and gloom, we drink deeply from the font of joy.
**O come, Key of David come, and open wide your heavenly home;
Make safe the path to endless day, to death's destruction close the way.**

As love seems a rare commodity in our world, we cling to the love that will not let us go.
**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

People of God, rejoice, for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests
upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.
**Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Opening Prayer Candace Wilson

† Carol 89 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELIS

Passing the Peace Jeff Harris
The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

† Carol 100 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 607) Phil Scoggins

Violin Solo *Gesú Bambino* -Pietro Yon

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7 (p. p. 58) Beth McCallister

† Carol 103 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14 (p. 58) Elizabeth Burrell

Anthem *Christ is Born, Nowell!* -Pepper Choplin

Surprise of a Lifetime Sydney Waldman

Violin Solo *What Child is This?* -16th Century Carol/Dewagtere

Scripture Reading Luke 2:15-20 (p. 58) Jeff Harris

Meditation "Fear Not" Jeff Harris

Violin Solo *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* -J.S. Bach/Dewagtere

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Words of Confession

The Lord has promised that if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Do you desire this grace and cleansing?

Without it there is no hope for me.

Our Lord has warned that those who ask for forgiveness themselves must also practice
forgiveness. Are you prepared to be generous and forgiving to those who have hurt you
and to let go of all bitterness?

I am but I will need God's help.

(Silent Confession)

Jesus is our peace. He is God in the flesh and he has reconciled those who were divided
through his birth, death, and resurrection. Because of this child from Bethlehem we are
whole, even when we are broken.

Thank you, O God, for your gifts of mercy and love.

