



Alleluia!
A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

First Baptist Church

DECEMBER 15, 2024 | 5:00 PM



Prelude

SILENT NIGHT
arranged by Joel Raney

Linda Bazemore and Leah Newsome, pianists

SCRIPTURE NARRATION
Isaiah 7:14

Leslie Lawrence

THE PROMISE

Michael W. Smith, arranged by David Hamilton

Christmas Choir
Jordan Martin, soloist

Michael W. Smith has long been one of contemporary Christian music's premiere songwriters and artists. *The Promise* first appeared on his 2007 Christmas album, *It's a Wonderful Christmas*, with arrangements and original compositions that seem both modern and timeless, symphonic and hymn-like. This excerpt from the larger album reminds us that Jesus Christ is Himself the fulfillment of ancient Hebrew prophecy. Christ has come to free us from our despair. Christ has come to free us from the dominion of sin. Christ has come to give us victory and eternal hope. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fear not, O Israel, for there is peace still to come.

A word to break the silence, a promise yet to bloom.

A promise to redeem us, One to free us, break the silence, end the violence in our hearts.

Emmanuel is sure to find us soon, the mighty root of Jesse, star of truth.

And bring our sons to glory, tell His story, heal the broken, and restore thee to His name.

The star will guide us to the humble place where Christ the King reveals His earthly face.

And we will sing, "Emmanuel, God is with us, God for us, God is in us, we will sing."

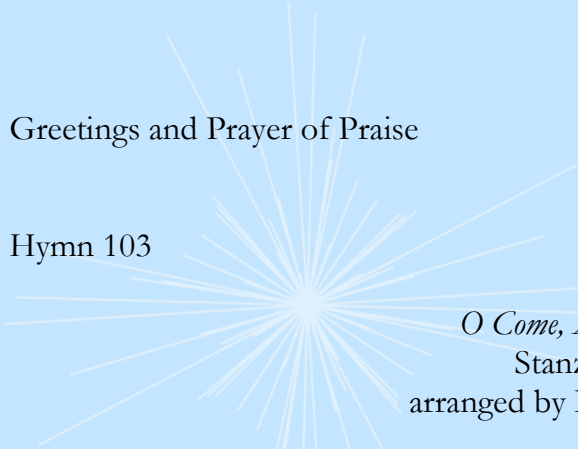
We're singing, "Alleluia, alleluia! God is with us!"

Greetings and Prayer of Praise

Greg Barmer

Hymn 103

ADESTE FIDELES



O Come, All Ye Faithful
Stanzas 1, 3, 4
arranged by David Schwoebel

What we sing of this Christmas favorite is a 19th century version of an 18th century hymn, “Come, ye faithful to Bethlehem” to join in the procession of the faithful who have journeyed in their hearts to Bethlehem in adoration of the Christ Child. Arranger David Schwoebel, of Richmond, VA, is a favorite of First Baptist.

Venite adoremus, dominum. (Come, let us adore the Lord.)
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nan Grantham

*Did you know, gentle shepherds in the field that night,
You would see the angels in the sky so bright;
You would hear of Jesus, gift of love and light?
Did you know?*

Preschool Choir

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?

Rosetti, Grantham

*What can I give Him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.*

Preschool Choir

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?

arranged by Julie Knowles

Chairo

Francis Chesterton, wife of G.K. Chesterton, wrote this poem for her 1917 Christmas cards that beautifully portrays the innocent, humble, and childlike questions of a faithful follower of Christ.

*How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child? Is He within? If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?*

*May we stroke the creatures there, oxen and sheep? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?*

*Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught.
Little smiles and little tears are all we have brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep. Here on His bed of straw, sleep now, sleep.*

GLORY (LET THERE BE PEACE)

Matt Maher, arranged by David Wise

Chairo

Chairo is a intergenerational ensemble of First Baptist that sings a variety of contemporary and multi-cultural sacred music.

Just as the angels announced that Peace had come to be with us, so today we sing of the same peace found in the glory of Christ in a contemporary adaptation of Matt Maher's popular song.

*One star burns in the darkness, shines with the Promise, Emmanuel.
One Child born in the stillness, living within us, Emmanuel.
We're singing Glory! Glory! Let there be peace!*

*One Voice speaks for the voiceless, Hope fore the hopeless, Emmanuel.
One Love bring us together, now and forever, Emmanuel.
We're singing Glory! Glory! Let there be peace!*

*Do not be afraid! His love is strong enough to save us.
Nothing stands in the way. His love is strong enough to lead us.
We're singing Glory! Glory! Let there be peace!*

SING OF THE BABY

1st - 2nd Grade Choir

AWAY IN A MANGER

CRADLE SONG

1st - 2nd Grade Choir

The congregation joins in singing stanza 3.

*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 thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with thee there.*

COME, LORD JESUS

HYFRYDOL, arranged by Jim Ailor

Combined 1st - 5th Grade Choirs

*Come, Lord Jesus, come to dwell with us. How we need your presence near.
Come to guide us. Come to save us. Come, O come, we welcome you here.
Alleluia! God is with us. Alleluia, Emmanuel!
Angels are praising and shepherds are bowing. God is with us! Sing Noel!*

THE FIRST NOEL

arranged by Dan Forrest

Jordan Martin, Cheryl Slachta, Jim Wiggins

This well-loved carol has survived and flourished since its humble beginnings in what we know today as Miracle Plays of the 13th and 14th centuries. After being transcribed and “modernized” it became a vehicle on the streets of Europe to herald the Good News of Christ’s coming. Its popularity today is a testament to the ageless Truth that Jesus is always present and desiring to fellowship with those who seek Him.

The word, “Noel,” has evolved from Latin and French and is simply a joyful exclamation of the birth of Christ - a sacred expression of “Merry Christmas,” so to speak.

*Noel! Noel!
The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel! Noel!*

FEAR NOT

Amy Tate Williams

Christmas Choir

In this stirring anthem, the composer takes us from the shepherds, to Joseph, to the feet of Jesus where we hear Him whisper to us the same angelic message we so desperately need, "Fear not. I have Good News for you! I'll be everything you need and more."

It was a night much like any other night. There was a star that shone with wondrous heavenly light. The shepherds feared the sky until they heard the angels cry, "Fear not, for I have good news for you! Fear not, for now your Lord is here! He'll be everything you need and more, Won't you come to Him now and adore."

Joseph was a man much like any other man. Here was his God-sent Son he wanted so to understand. His mind began to doubt until he heard the angel shout, "Fear not, for I have good news for you! Fear not, for now your Lord is here! He'll be everything you need and more, Won't you come to Him now and adore."

Today's a day much like any other day. We have our fears and doubts in much the same way. But there's a longing deep within when Jesus whispers once again, "Fear not, for I have good news for you!"

SCRIPTURE NARRATION

Leslie Lawrence

Luke 1:30-33; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 2:4-7

SON OF GOD

Michael W. Smith, arranged by David Hamilton

Christmas Choir
Jordan Martin, soloist

Also from Michael W. Smith's Christmas album, *Son of God* continues to describe the glory of God's promises to His people fulfilled in Christ and the power of God's perfect plan to rescue us from despair. We sing "Gloria, Alleluia, God is with us!"

*Son of God, purest light, Lord on high is here tonight.
Stepping through this sacred sky, suddenly, our eyes behold heaven's perfect plan unfold.*

*Son of God, love divine, timeless One steps into time.
Who could dream of such a thing, with us now, the King of kings?
Men and angels bow and sing, alleluia, alleluia, Gloria, alleluia!"*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
arranged by Colin Peckham

ON DECEMBER FIVE AND TWENTY

arranged by Michael Burkhardt

3rd - 5th Grade Choir

The history of this Spanish carol is vague, but it is one of few Catalan carols to be popular in English. Written likely in the 16th or 17th century, the nonsense words, “fum, fum, fum” may be a vocal imitation of a guitar strum or flamenco drum. The stanzas celebrate the Good News of Jesus’ birth and the fact that even the birds celebrate the glory of God. So should we! The children accompany themselves with Orff percussion instruments.

*On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum!
Unto us a Child is given, the infant Lord of earth and heaven;
born of Mary, mother lowly, Christ our Savior, pure and holy: fum, fum, fum!*

*Little birds within the forest: fum, fum, fum!
O come and see the birth of God’s own Son come down to earth;
Build a nest inside the stable, for the Child a humble cradle: fum, fum, fum!*

SCRIPTURE NARRATION

Leslie Lawrence

Luke 2:8-12

SING NOEL, SING HALLELUJAH

Michael W. Smith, arranged by David Hamilton

Christmas Choir

The music of Michael W. Smith’s Christmas album continues in *Sing Noel*. This regal setting appropriately recreates the grandeur and splendor of the Good News as Christ’s coming is proclaimed to the world.

*Sing Noel! Sing we all Noel! Come behold this Child in the manger,
gift of the Father’s great love.
Angels look down as His glory surrounds them, starlight from heaven above.*

*Lift up your heads all who wander in darkness, shine for your light has come.
Down through the ages, though sin’s battle rages, Christ, our Messiah, has won.*

*Let every daughter and son of the Father rise on this Christmas morn.
With heaven voicing all praise and rejoicing, Christ, our Redeemer is born.
Sing Noel, sing Hallelujah! Lift high His praises, Christ come to save us all.*

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

arranged by Marianne Forman

Vocal Ensemble

This gentle setting creates a marvelous blend of familiarity and freshness that helps us capture the depth of the lyric, “Oh rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.”

*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold. “
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from Heaven’s all gracious King!”*

*All ye beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
O look, now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
Oh rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

ADORATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

arranged by Camp Kirkland

Instrumental Ensemble

Opening with a rich brass choir statement of “Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness” this setting progresses into a rhythmic development of “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim.
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name.”*

SCRIPTURE NARRATION

John 1:14; Luke 2:13-14

Leslie Lawrence

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Michael W. Smith, arranged by David Hamilton

Christmas Choir
Jordan Martin, soloist

This finale of Michael W. Smith's collection proclaims the glory of Christ and calls us all to "bow before Him, come and behold the Son of God born on Christmas Day!"

*Christmas angels sing all around us.
Spread good tidings over the earth, telling of a Child in a manger who is born,
He is the King of kings!*

*King of glory, hope for the nations, sent to earth to save and redeem.
Prince of peace, behold and adore; the Son of God has come to set us free.*

*Raise a banner dance and rejoice. Celebrate the birth of Messiah.
He's the Savior, King, the Lord of all. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!*

*We sing joy to the world, the Lord has come. He is the One, God's only Son, Emmanuel!
Who was and is, and is to come; God here with us forever and ever.*

*Christmas angels sing all around us. All creation hears what they say.
Bow before Him, come and behold the Son of God born on Christmas day!*

SCRIPTURE NARRATION
from Colossians 3

Leslie Lawrence

FEAR NOT REPRISE

Amy Tate Williams

Christmas Choir

*Today's a day much like any other day. We have our fears and doubts in much the same way. But there's a longing deep within when Jesus whispers once again,
'Fear not, for I have good news for you! Fear not, for now your Lord is here!
He'll be everything you need and more, Won't you come to Him now and adore.'*

*"May the eyes of your heart be enlightened, that you may know the hope to which you're called,
the riches of His glorious inheritance, and His incomparably great power."*

Ephesians 1:18-19

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!



Greg Barmer, Interim Minister of Music
Jordan Martin, Soloist
Leah Newsome, Pianist

Narrator
Leslie Lawrence

The addition of our fine instrumentalists from the
East Carolina University School of Music
is made possible by the

J. ROBERTSON MUSIC COMMITTEE FUND
of First Baptist Church.



First Baptist Church

Rev Dr. Dennis Bazemore, Interim Pastor
Rev. Dr. Greg Barmer, Interim Minister of Music
Mrs. Leah Newsome, Music Associate/Pianist

First Baptist Church Of Ahoskie

Sunday, December 22

Bible Study, 9:45 AM ~ Worship, 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

a service of candlelight, communion, and carols

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 | 5:00 PM

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 AM

Bible Study Classes for all ages: 9:45 AM

Sunday Afternoon

Youth Fellowship and Bible Study

Wednesday Evening

Family Dinner

Children's Choirs

Adult Bible Study

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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