



First Baptist

A B I L E N E

The First Sunday of Advent -- The Sunday of Hope

Get ready! Today we begin our journey to the manger and the miracle of the God of creation entering into our world- "Emmanuel" - God with us. We have all kinds of destinations during this season from the mall and shopping, to traveling to celebrate with family. Our prayer is that ultimately we are bound for Bethlehem. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas Day. It is a time of spiritual preparation, anticipation, waiting, and longing for God to show up in our world. Advent comes from the Latin word, "adventus" that means a coming, or arrival. Each Sunday, we light a candle on the Advent wreath to prepare for the coming event that will change our lives forever. The first Sunday we light the candle of hope, or the prophets candle, that reminds us that Israel waited in hope that one day a Savior would come to deliver them. We think the colors of Christmas are red and green. Yet, the color of Advent is purple from the candles in the Advent wreath to the communion cloth. The color of purple signifies royalty and the coming of a King, The third candle is pink, which represents the incredible joy that Mary felt when she discovered that she would be the mother of our Lord. As we come to worship, you are invited to prepare your lives and hearts for the coming of the Savior. We are bound for Bethlehem... and it can change our lives.

The Worship of God

November 27, 2011

Morning Worship—10:30 a.m.

Prelude		Camron Cummings
Chiming of the Hour		
Lighting of the Advent Candle	Theresa, Shelby, Courtney & Jaxon Turner <i>Lance Turner is currently deployed</i>	
Congregational Call to Worship		Congregation
	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> (Celebration Hymnal #244) <i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i> (Celebration Hymnal #259)	
Prayer and Welcome	<i>Hosanna</i>	John Moore
Children's Sermon		Phil Christopher
Song of Our Worship	<i>How Great Is Our God</i>	Congregation
Family Dedication	Jocelyn Willcockson Brian and Lori Willcockson—parents	Phil Christopher
Song of Our Worship		Congregation
	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i> (Celebration Hymnal #258)	
God's Eternal Word for Us Today	Luke 1:5-20 Reader: This is the Word of the Lord Congregation: Thanks be to God	Rob Sellers
Offertory Prayer		Janie Sellers
Offertory	<i>Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Message from God's Word	Bethlehem Bound Dealing with the Disappointment of Expectations	Phil Christopher
Invitation	<i>Living for Jesus</i> (Celebration Hymnal #605)	Congregation
Continuing Acts of Worship		Mike Greenfield
Recognition of Decisions		C. V. Blake
Benediction	<i>How Great Is Our God</i>	Congregation
Postlude		Camron Cummings

Musicians: Beverly Warren—piano, Camron Cummings—organ