



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...
There's room for every story

Carols by Candlelight

First Baptist Church Halifax
December 11, 2022, 7:00pm



-Genealogy of Christ by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



This Advent-Christmas season, the community of First Baptist Church Halifax is reflecting on the origin story of Jesus found in Matthew 1:1-17. Before angels appear to Joseph in dreams, before Mary gives birth, before the Magi visit, we are reminded that Jesus has an origin story. Indeed, his origin story is crucial to understanding the work that Jesus is up to in our world.

Some of the names do not surprise us. The origin of Jesus begins with Abraham, the one called out to become a blessing to all the families of the world. The list also begins by naming David, a complex leader in Israel's history—one whose life demonstrated the extremes of faithfulness and unfaithfulness to the just ways of God. The list includes Jews and Gentiles, well-known figures and nobodies, the powerful (kings) and those with little social power (women from the margins). The genealogy is consistent with ancient cultural norms, telling the origin of Jesus through the patriarchal structure of his era (thirty-nine times using the phrase “father of”). But the origin story unfolds in ways quite contrary to these norms and also includes the names of five women. Indeed, in the end, the term “father of” is completely abandoned as the attention shifts to Mary while Joseph is given no agency in the conception of Jesus.

It is the five women in this origin story to whom we are turning our attention throughout the Advent-Christmas season. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary are not interesting simply because they are women included in a male-dominated genealogy. Rather, each of them has an important story to tell, each of them demonstrates a powerful resolve for life—for their own families and their larger communities. Their lives are put on the line to draw attention to injustice. They remind us that there is room for the stories of all in the community of Jesus.

We gather this evening to hear again the story of Christmas through Scripture readings, music, and carols. It is my hope that we connect the joy of this season with the origin story of Jesus, being reminded that this is God's story of justice-love for all the world.

Throughout this Worship Guide are images by artist Cody F. Miller. Each image is of one of the women mentioned in Jesus' origin story in Matthew 1:1-17. Full-sized prints of the images are located in the North Transept of the church Sanctuary.

Christmas blessing to you and yours,

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards (he/him)
Senior Minister

Order of Service

Service livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and fbchalifax.ca.

Guest Organist, Shawn Whynot

**First Baptist Church Senior Choir
under direction of Lynette Wahlstrom**

Cody F. Miller Artist Reflections Narrated by Rhonda Schofield

**Featuring Special Guests, Harana Singers of Nova Scotia
under direction of Leander Mendoza**



The Harana Singers of Nova Scotia was formed by Leander Mendoza in June 2018. Tonight they will sing both folk and classical songs from the Philippines. The group is composed of members of the Filipino community with a mission to promote and preserve Filipino culture through music.

Prelude

Shawn Whynot, organ
Noël -Théodore Dubois

Harana Singers

Simbang Gabi (Evening Mass) -Lucio San Pedro

It is the 16th of December, heralding the beginning of Christmas celebrations in the hearts of every Filipino. For nine consecutive evenings, we wake up to the sound of church bells. At dawn, we walk together, greeting everyone on the way to church. Then it's Christmas! Stars are shining in the night sky. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all with goodwill!

Shawn Whynot, organ
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland -J. S. Bach
"Come, Saviour of the Nations"

Natasha Sider, soprano and Leander Mendoza, tenor
Sub tuum praesidium -W.A. Mozart (Coronation Mass)

*We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin*

Shawn Whynot, organ
Marche des Rois Mages (March of the Magi) -Théodore Dubois



Carols & Lessons

Welcome

Paula Zanello Antunes

Introit

Senior Choir

Lo How a Rose e'er Blooming -German carol/arr. M. Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung.

*It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.*

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

Judy Whalen

New Revised Standard Version

^{5:2} But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.



-Tamar by Cody F. Miller

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELES)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps. *R*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *R*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of Creator, now in flesh appearing! *R*

Second Lesson**Luke 1:26-35, 38****Donna Darrell***New Revised Standard Version*

1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God... ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

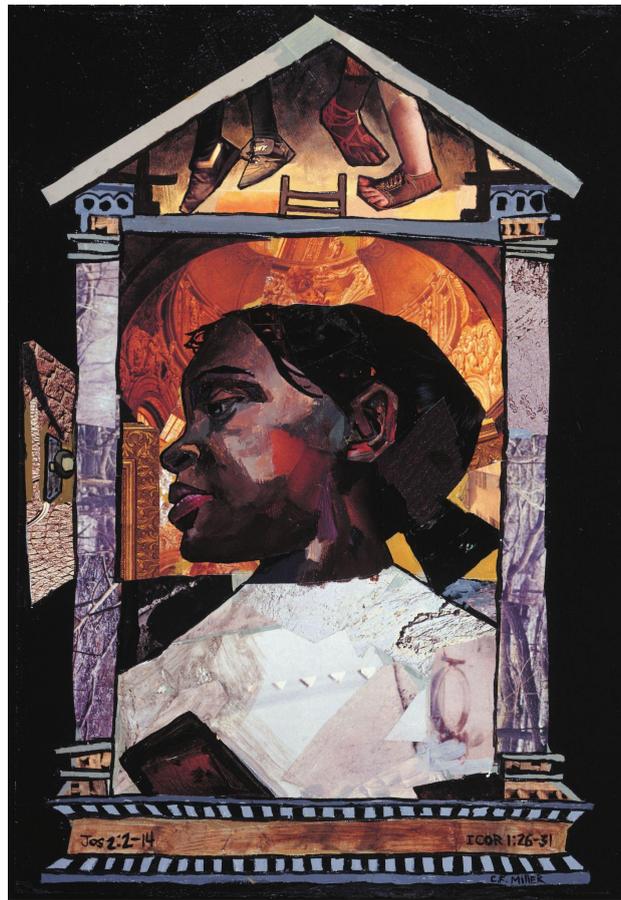
Anthem**Senior Choir*****Gabriel's Message* -arr. Edgar Pettman**

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*

*"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*



-Rahab by Cody F. Miller

Third Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Marsha Hurshman

New Revised Standard Version

- 1:46 And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in you, my Saviour,
48 for you have looked with favour on the lowliness of your servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
50 Your mercy is for those who fear you
from generation to generation.
51 You have shown strength with your arm;
you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 You have brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 you have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 You have helped your servant Israel,
in remembrance of your mercy,
55 according to the promise you made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Musical Reflection

Harana Singers

Payapang Daigdig (Peaceful World) -Felipe Padilla de Leon

*The night is calm, all is hushed, even the stars in the deep blue sky.
A gentle breeze seems to whisper through the stillness of the night.
Peace and love is the essence of life. God's gift to all humankind.*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Paula Chiasson

New Revised Standard Version

^{2:1}In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem

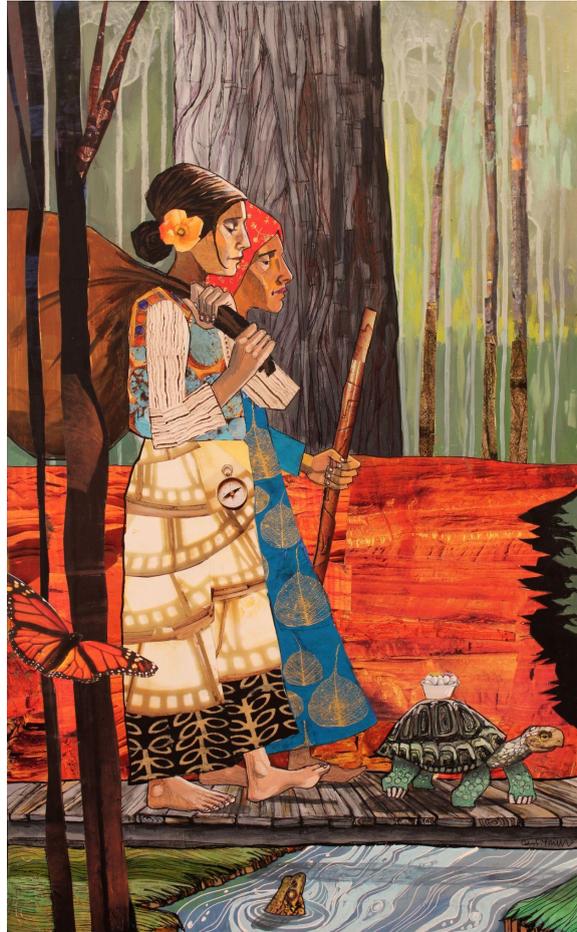
**Naomi Sney, Leander Mendoza, Senior Choir
Sing my Child -Sarah Quartel**

*Mary's Lullaby: "Sing of the promise of each new morning.
Sing for a hope in a new day dawning.
All around is beauty bright! Wake in the morning and sing, my child.*

*Dance in the joy of the day unfolding.
Dance as you work and dance as you're learning.
All around is beauty bright! Take in the day and dance, my child.*

*But when troubles come and worry is all that can be found,
gather your strength and hear your voice.
Sing, my child.*

*Laugh in the cool and the fresh of the evening.
Laugh in your triumph, laugh in succeeding.
All around is beauty bright! Rest in the evening and laugh, my child.
Peace."*



-Ruth and Naomi's Journey by Cody F. Miller

Advent Prayer

Rusty Edwards

Musical Reflection

Harana Singers

Halina, Hesus, Halina (Come, Jesus, Come) -Fr. Eduardo Hontiveros

In the beginning, O God, You have planned humanity's salvation.

Through Your humble servant, Mary, the promised Messiah has come!

Emmanuel: God with us.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Sheri Allen Lee

New Revised Standard Version

^{2:8}In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!'

Carol: Angels We Have Heard On High (GLORIA)

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Glo-ria in excelsis Deo;
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? *R*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *R*



-Bathsheba by Cody F. Miller

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Quintina Rolle

New Revised Standard Version

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Anthem

Senior Choir

La Berceuse (The Lullaby) -Barbara Bell

*My heart is lost – my song is of Mary’s love and God’s grace;
The angels in a sky so blue, the little babe in the morning.
Lulla-ley-lo, lulla-ley-lo, sleep softly, little babe.
Lulla-ley-lo, lulla-ley-lo, sleep softly, and I shall cradle you.*

*The three kings and their precious gifts,
The child’s clear gaze sees all: this mother,
The shepherd, and the animals;
The King of kings in the morning.
Lul-la-ley-lo.*

Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2:1-15

Megan Henderson

New Revised Standard Version

^{2:1}In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ’

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. ¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to

Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

Carol: *The First Nowell* (English Traditional Carol)

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

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *R*

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *R*

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *R*

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *R*

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his spirit our life hath bought. *R*



-Mary by Cody F. Miller

Reflective Music

Shawn Whynot, Organ
In Dulci Jubilo (In Quiet Joy) -Marcel Dupré

Anthem

Adoramus Te, Christe -Théodore Dubois

Senior Choir

*Christ we do all adore thee, and we do praise Thee forever,
for on the Holy Cross hast Thou the world from sin redeemed.*

Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Addison Edwards

New Revised Standard Version

^{1:1}In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He

himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth.

Musical Reflection

Harana Singers

Diwa ng Pasko (Spirit of Christmas) -Ramon Tapales

Let us gaze at the bright rays of light from the star shining on Bethlehem, where the Saviour of the world has been born!

Let us rejoice and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord.

Let us kneel before Him. May the Spirit of Christmas linger in your hearts and homes all year through.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night! (STILLE NACHT)*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Postlude

Shawn Whynot

Noël - When Christ was Born at Christmas -Louis-Claude Daquin



Offerings

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering receptacles are located at the back of the Sanctuary. You may also give to FBCH by making an e-transfer or by giving through Canada Gives. For more information, visit www.fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link on our homepage or scan the QR code.



FBCH Staff Ministry Team

Paula Zanello Antunes (she/her), Coordinator, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

David Bourque (he/him), Lay Minister

John Dalton (he/him), Lay Minister

Rusty Edwards (he/him), Senior Minister

Jean Ferguson (she/her), Coordinator, Congregational and Community Engagement

Arla Johnson (she/her), Minister of Inclusive Community

Chip Murray (he/him), Custodian

Rhonda Schofield (she/her), Interim Minister of Faith Development

Lynette Wahlstrom (she/her), Director of Music

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Join FBCH on Christmas Eve

All services are in person and online. To worship online join us on the FBCH Facebook Page, YouTube Channel, or on our Website (fbchalifax.ca).

Family Christmas Eve Service - 4:00 pm

This service is designed with children in mind. Come celebrate the birth of Christ with your entire family through a dramatic telling of the Christmas story and carolling.

Candlelight Communion Service - 9:00 pm

This service is in the contemplative tradition. Music, candlelight, scripture readings, and Communion invite us to reflect on the mystery of Christ coming into our world and our lives.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HALIFAX
