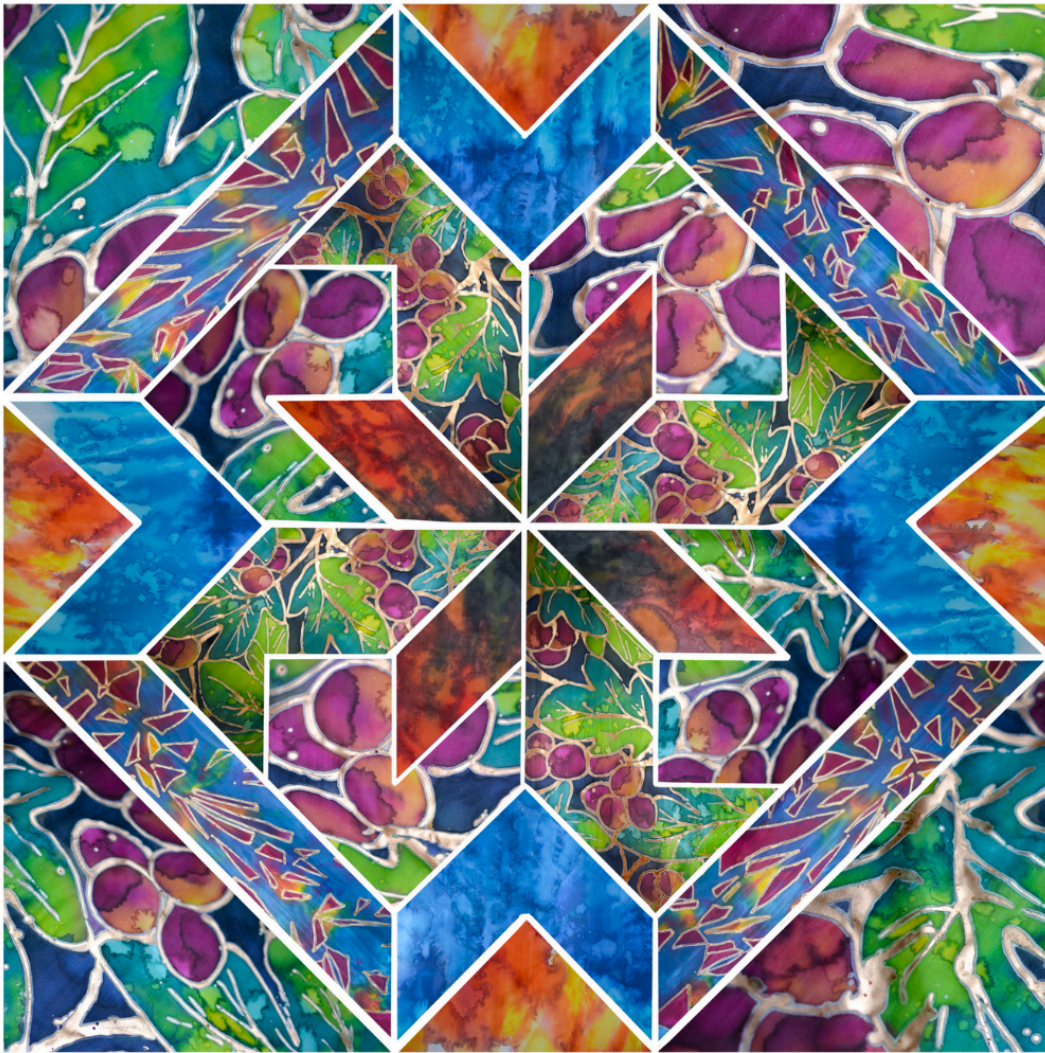




WORDS
FOR THE **BEGINNING**
ADVENT REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASONS

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15 2024 | 10:30am



Lisle

The Good that is Yours by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Luke 3:7-16 | Ink dyes and gold resist on silk, with digital collage

Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning. For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, organ
Good Christian All, Rejoice - Quentin Thomas

Welcome

Paula Zanello Antunes
If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Special Announcement

David Dexter, Finance Committee Chair

Ringing of the Trinity

We Gather in the presence of God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit - to open ourselves to this truth: You Are a Blessing

Call to Worship: Isaiah 58:9b-12

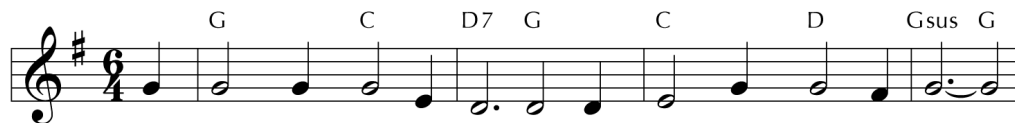
Steve Clarke

^{58:9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Silent Reflection

***Processional Carol (next page)**

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



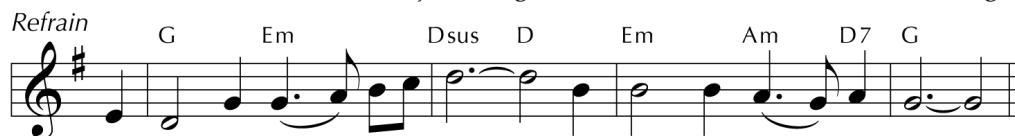
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

Lighting of the Joy Candle Sheri Allen Lee, Erick and Wendell Lee Bisi, Jide, Toni, and Seun Adesola

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us start small.

Let us begin with what is right in front of us.

**Let us do the good that is ours to do,
 and let us do it with joy!**

What is joy? Joy is...

Today we light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights inspire action.

May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

May it be so! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song [BRING A TORCH]

Joy has come and never will leave us!
Joy is life everlasting and free.
Joy is Jesus within and among us.
Joy is the light our hearts are seeking.
Joy! Joy! Joy is the gift of Christmas.
Joy! Joy! Praise to you, God on high!

Advent Prayer Of Approach

Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

**I ask myself,
*What could these two hands do?
What could this one voice say?***

Shake me free of my self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

Children's Hymn: Angels We Have Heard On High (v3)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Children's Story



**DO THE GOOD THAT
IS YOURS TO DO**

We are each uniquely gifted, called, and equipped for the good that is ours to do in the world. In the centre is the cross, symbolizing Christ's impact, and surrounding it are individuals reaching out and shining their particular light in the world.

*Blessing of the Children

Beloved children of our church family always remember: *Do the good that is yours to do.*

Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are dismissed to go to Godly Play.

*Doxology - VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O People of God!

Donations

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or setting up recurring donations.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-16

New Revised Standard Version

^{3:7} John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ ¹¹In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ ¹³He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’

Spoken Reflection

Do the Good That is Yours to Do

Rusty Edwards

Anthem

The Protector -K. Jenkins

Sr. Choir

Prayers Of the People

Sheri Allen Lee

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

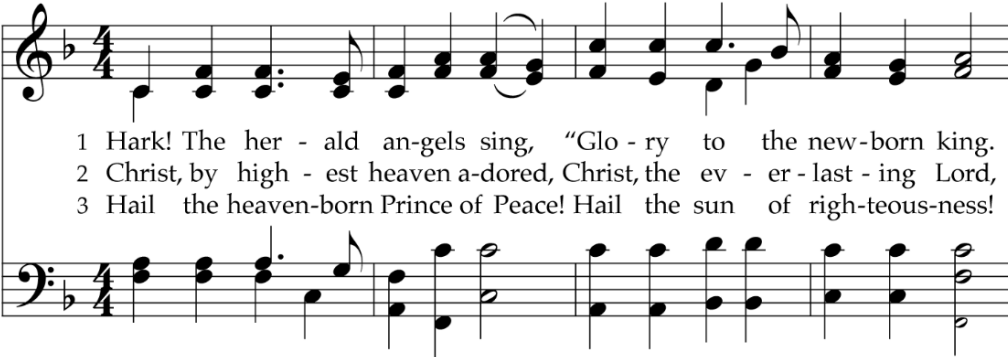
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

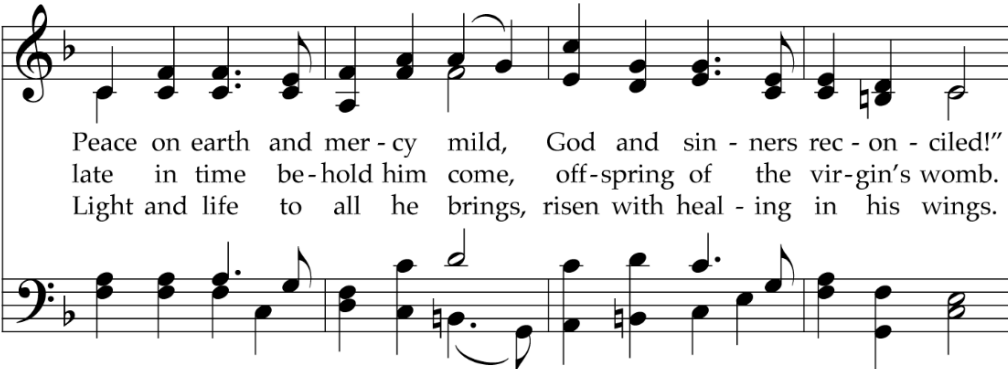
*Recessional Carol (next page)

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

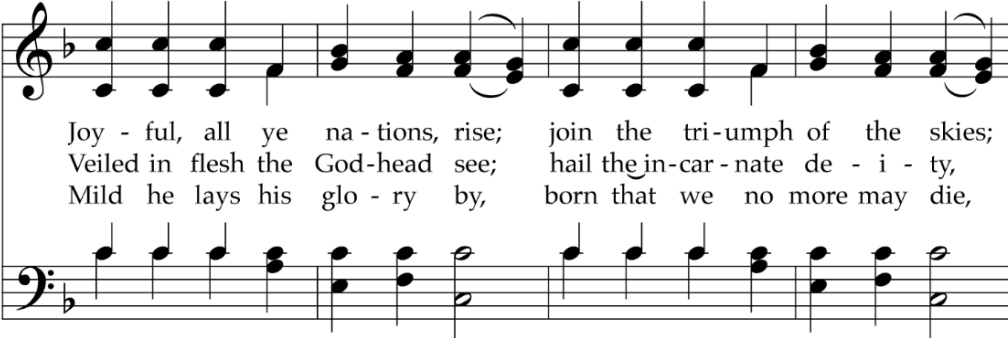
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



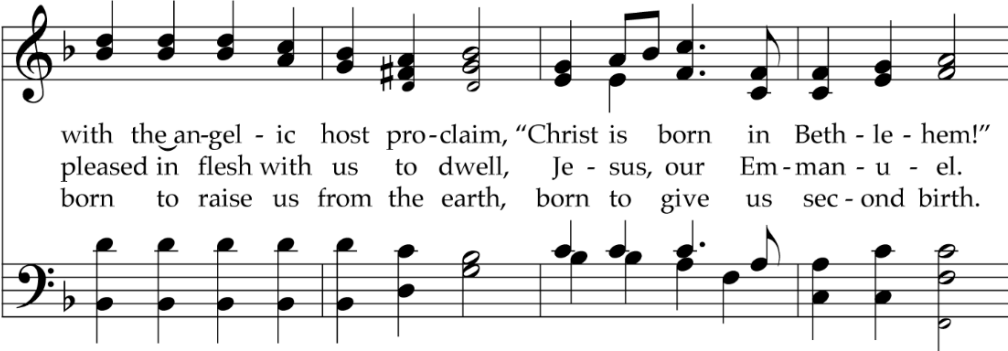
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain



Welcoming Armbrae Academy

Jim Stanley, FBCH

Steve Clarke and Ashley Matthews-Duffett, Armbrae Academy

Following the service, Armbrae is hosting FBCH for an open house of the renovated space that will serve as Armbrae's South Campus and home of their Middle School. The space includes the first and second floors of the Education Wing of our building.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude "Adeste fideles -arr. Roger C. Wilson
Lynette Wahlstrom, organ

The Week Ahead at FBCH

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30am - Worship; Sanctuary

11:45 Learn to Sing; Parlour

11:45am - Armbrae South Campus
Open House

7pm - Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday, December 17

7:00pm - Leadership Team Meeting;
Parlour

Wednesday, December 18

7:00pm - Jazz Vespers; Sanctuary

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30am - Worship; Sanctuary

2-4pm - Open House at the Edwards



Christmas Flowers on Chancel



Given By	In Honour or Remembrance
Fredrick Barrow	In Memory of Joyce and Irvine Barrow
The Boyd Family	In loving memory of Rev. John E. Boyd from Debbie, Anthony, Adam, and Alaina
Peter Boudreau and Kevin Selig	In loving memory of our parents and grandparents
Alice Chan-Yip & Sandy Yip	In memory of husband/father Prof.Gar Lam Yip and parents/grandparents Drs. Yuen-Kok Chan & Yuk-Chan Ma and Mrs. Mu-Chin Sek-Yeh.
Eva Conn	In Memory of John Conn from wife Eva, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
Laurie & Alan Cruess	In memory of Loved Ones
Donna & Bryan Darrell	Our Parents: Alex and Alice Darrell Lois and Charles Smith Brothers: Colin Darrell Keith Darrell Woodrow and Cynthia Darrell Son: Ojayaba Jones-Darrell
Dexter Families	Susan, Reid & Bernice, Betty & Earl, Vincent & Irva, Carl & Jean Dexter, Shirley Moir (Aunt)
Ted, Marion & Peter Doane	In loving memory of Greg Doane (son of Ted and Marion and brother of Peter) and Larry Doane (Father of Ted and grandfather of Greg and Peter) and Wayne Wile (Brother of Marion) and Ron Wile (Father of Marion and grandfather of Greg and Peter).
Mary Anne and Ray Eisener	In loving memory of parents Ralston and Vivian Eisener, Harold and Betty Veinot and son-in-law, Andrew Robar.
Owen and Clyde Evans	Flowers from Owen and Clyde in memory of parents Reg and Marj Evans and aunt Dorothy Parkes.
Catherine Fry, Susan Duncan, Ron and James Isnor and Families	in memory of Clyde, Barbara, Gordon and Jane Isnor.

Kyna Mason and Family	In loving memory of Julian Mason
Frank & Sharon McGill	In loving memory of our parents.
Johanne McKee and family	In memory of husband Ian, their son Christopher and parents and Grandparents Henry and Mabel Zwicker , and Clarence and Helen McKee.
Dianne Kokesh	In memory of parents Phyllis and Jack McMahan.
Linda Macintosh and Family	In loving memory of Dan Macintosh
Heather McNeil and Family	In memory of parents Bill and Doris (Boots) Smith and grandmother Ida Smith.
The Myers Family	In memory of Don and Donna Myers.
The Stevenson and Margeson Families	In Loving Memory of Elbert Stevenson and Florence Margeson
Thomas Family	In loving memory of Arch and Betty Thomas, and Lynn Baechler. Forever in our hearts, the Thomas girls and their families.
Diane and Alex Young	In loving memory of Nelson & Winniefred Chow (Diana's Parents), Peggy Yeung (Alex's Mother), and Pauline Wan (Sister), Joseph Chow (Brother), Denny (Brother)
Whitney Family	Remembering our loved ones, Ted, Jean, Bill, Fran, Annette, Jane and Brenda.

Advent Services @ FBCH

Sunday, December 15

7pm - Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday, December 18

7pm - Jazz Vespers

Sunday, December 22

10:30am - Worship - Advent 4

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4pm - Family Service

9pm - Contemplative Communion

Sunday, December 29

10:30am - Worship - Christmas 1

No Children's Programs during this service

CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

Paula Zanello Antunes | Community Engagement Lead

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David Bourque | Lay Minister

John Dalton | Lay Minister

Rusty Edwards | Senior Minister

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Jean Ferguson | Congregational Coordinator

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Arla Johnson | Minister of Inclusive Community

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Chip Murray | Custodian

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Lynette Wahlstrom | Director of Music

lynettewahlstrom@fbchalifax.ca

Special thanks to today's worship leaders:

David Dexter

Jim Stanley

Sheri Allen Lee, Erick and Wendell Lee

Bisi, Jide, Toni, and Seun Adesola

Ashley Matthews-Duffett

Steve Clarke

FIND OUT MORE

fbchalifax.ca 

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First Baptist Church Halifax 

[fbchalifax](https://www.facebook.com/fbchalifax) 

First Baptist Church Halifax 



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
HALIFAX

Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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