

First Sunday in Advent

November 30 2025 | 10:30am



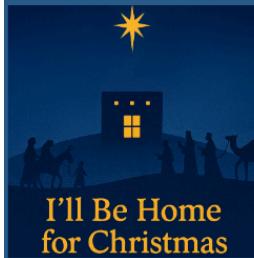
Image: La Sagrada Familia by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission

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.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved



Artist Statement

***La Sagrada Familia* by Iconographer Kelly Latimore**

“I was inspired to paint *La Sagrada Familia* by a trip with my partner Evie and encountering some undocumented immigrants. We were sitting around a bonfire one night with this young man from Guatemala who told us why he was in the United States, his struggles, his hopes, and fears. He had come here as a teenager, only to be deported and then almost beaten to death in Mexico. He eventually crossed the desert again to the United States. Everything about him broke us. He has the image of God within him. As we were hearing all of the hateful rhetoric that was anti-immigrant, anti-stranger, his experience immediately came to mind while creating this modern holy family image and how the refugees Jesus, Mary, and Joseph must have felt fleeing from Herod 2,000 years ago.”



Scan QR Code for the Advent-Christmas 2025 Art Book
featuring icons by Kelly Latimore

Icons are also on display in the North Transept



Scan QR Code for a
**Reflection on the Advent Theme,
I'll be Home for Christmas
by Rusty Edwards**



Scan QR Code for
**Information on Advent-Christmas
Worship Services & Events at FBCH**

Prelude**Lynette Wahlstrom****Welcome**

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

Paula Zanello Antunes**Ringing of the Trinity**

Let us Find Our Home in God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit

Introit**Senior Choir**

Light Dawns on a Weary World by Mary Louise Bringle

Hope dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Hope dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes;
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The Hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

Call to Worship: Ezekiel 34:11-16*Arla Johnson**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{34:11}For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹²As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the well-fed and strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Silent Reflection**Baptism of Elnaz Sarsangi and Abtin Amirirad*****Processional Carol (next page)**

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple

here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come, 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 and open wide our heavenly home; our spirits by thine advent here;
 make safe the way that leads on high, disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and close the path to misery. and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: *O Wisdom* (2)

Dec. 20: *O Key of David (5)*

Dec. 23: *O Emmanuel* (1)

Dec. 18: *O Lord of might* (3)

Dec. 21: *O Dayspring* (6)

Dec. 19: *O Root of Jesse (4)*

Dec. 22: *O Desire of Nations* (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain

Lighting of the Hope Candle

**Jim Stanley and Sheila Stanley
Evelyn Cain and Cornella Steele**

In a world of shifting ground, where so many wander and wait, how do we begin to find our way home? Where do we discover hope?

Let us begin with what is near.

Let us open our eyes to the road before us.

Let us take the first step, together.

What is hope? Hope is...

Today we light the Candle of Hope

May this small light guide the travellers.

May it warm those who feel far from home.

May it remind us that even on the road, God is with us.

May it be so! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song [BRING A TORCH]

Hope has come and never will leave us!

Hope is life everlasting and free.

Hope is Jesus within and among us.

Hope is the light our hearts are seeking.

Hope! Hope! Hope is the gift of Christmas.

Hope! Hope! Praise to you, God on high!

Advent Prayer Of Approach

Pilgrim God,

You walk beside the lost and the longing.

When I feel unsure of where I belong,

teach me to trust the road beneath my feet.

Let hope rise in me like dawn's first light,

until I find my way toward home again. 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

Erick Lee

***Blessing of the Children**

Beloved children of our church family: may God's Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your

imaginings be opened to encounter God's love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.

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

Today's Formation Activities: Godly Play Story and Response

***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 2:1-20

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{2:1}In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same 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!”

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, ¹⁹and 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, just as it had been told them.

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

*Longing, Belonging, and the Holy Family's Search for Home
Home on the Road*

Anthem

Sr. Choir

A Gallery Carol -arr. Robin Wells

Welcoming New Members

Elnaz Sarsangi and Abtin Amirirad

Welcome into the Congregation of FBCH

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes. We hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace.

Prayers Of the People

Arla Johnson

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)**

105 People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.
Peo-ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom

Christmas Recessional on "Adeste fideles" -R. Wilson

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
DECEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM (FBCH SANCTUARY)



The Week Ahead at FBCH

Today

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
11:45am - Christmas Craft Sale; Sanctuary

Thursday, December 4

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Saturday, December 6

12pm Cookie Box Assembly

Sunday, December 7

Advent 2

9 am - Social Choir; Sanctuary
10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
Cookie Box Distribution

**For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes*



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BREAKING STEREOTYPES SINCE 1827

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. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
HALIFAX