

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14 2025 | 10:30am



Image: St Joseph 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

St Joseph by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission

While painting this icon I was thinking of all those who have been quietly taking care of their families during the global pandemic. Those who have guided and protected their loved ones through sickness, loss of work, lack of food and forced evictions. Those healthcare workers silently tending the sick and dying, holding hands, looking into eyes, and being present to the most vulnerable. I think of all those people in my own life who have quietly (and sometimes quite unknowingly) kept me going during the pandemic.

St. Joseph has shown us that even the quietest ordinary acts can be signs of hope in the world, reminders that the world bears within itself the seeds of genuine love.



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***Fanfare on “Antioch” -Hancock***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.

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

Joy dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Joy 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: Isaiah 60:1-6*Dawn Friedrich***New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

^{60:1} Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and God's glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Silent Reflection

*Processional Carol

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri-ent are; bear-ing gifts we tra-verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a-gain,
3 Frank-in - cense to of-fer have I; in-cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit-ter per-fume breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a-rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais-ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain



Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

Lighting of the Joy Candle **Paula Antunes, Matheus Antunes, Noah
Jenny Edwards, Janet Margeson
Alberta Morgan, Kathy Schwartzenzuber**

When doors open and strangers become friends,
when laughter fills the kitchen,
joy has found its way home.

Let us open our doors wide.

Let us welcome unexpected guests.

Let us delight in God's surprising presence.

What is joy? Joy is...

Today we light the Candle of Joy

May this light dance in every window.

May it scatter shadows of loneliness.

May joy make its home among us.

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

Radiant God,

You shine through the faces of strangers.

When wonder crosses our threshold,

kindle joy like fire on the hearth.

Let its glow remind us that your love still surprises. Amen.

The Dedication of Noah Antunes and Family

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

*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 imaginations 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: Matthew 2:1-12

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{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 in the east 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.’ ”

⁷Then 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 in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ On 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.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
 for the Word of God among us,
 for the Word of God within us.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

*Longing, Belonging, and the Holy Family's Search for Home
Home that Welcomes*

Anthem

Sr. Choir

Ding Dong, Merrily on High -Llewellyn

Prayers Of the People

Dawn Friedrich

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)**

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Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Solo Postlude

Joseph Goodwin, baritone

The Trumpet Shall Sound -Handel (Messiah)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM (FBCH SANCTUARY)



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.



Christmas Flowers

placed on the chancel in remembrance

| Given by | In remembrance or honor of |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Fredrick Barrow | In Memory of Joyce and Irvine Barrow |
| Debbie Boyd, Anthony, Adam and Alaina | In memory of Rev. John E Boyd |
| Laurie & Alan Cruess | In memory of Loved Ones |
| Donna & Bryan Darrell | Our Parents: Alex and Alice Darrell and Lois and Charles Smith Brothers: Colin Darrell, Keith Darrell and Woodrow and wife 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 | In memory of parents Reg and Marj Evans and aunt Dorothy Parkes. |
| Dawn Friedrich | In memory of my beloved mom Patricia Friedrich who passed away in February 2025. |

| Given by | In remembrance or honor of |
|---|--|
| Peter Fillmore | In memory of Anne Ellen Fillmore |
| Catherine Fry, Susan Duncan, Ron and James Isnor and Families | In memory of Clyde, Barbara, Gordon and Jane Isnor. |
| Joan Keith, Curtis Keith and The Hazelton Family | In memory of Don Keith. |
| Dianne and Bill Kokesh | In memory of parents Phyllis and Jack McMahon. |
| Linda Macintosh and Family | In loving memory of Dan Macintosh |
| Frank & Sharon McGill | In loving memory of our parents Murray and Iola and Milton and Lillian |
| 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. |
| 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 |
| 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 Yeung(Alex's Brother) |
| Whitney Family | Remembering loved ones forever in our hearts. |



The Week Ahead at FBCH

Today

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
7pm - Carols by Candlelight; Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 16

7pm - Deacons Meeting; Community Room

Wednesday, December 17

7pm - Jazz Vespers; Sanctuary

Sunday, December 21

Advent 4

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
1:30-5:00pm - Edwards' Family Open House

**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