

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21 2025 | 10:30am



Image: Refugees: The Holy Family 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.



I'll Be Home
for Christmas

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved

Artist Statement
Refugees: The Holy Family
by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission

I met the family depicted in this icon while in Palestine in 2008. At the time they lived in a terribly confined refugee camp in the West Bank. At one point the camp didn't have a doctor and soldiers were blocking anyone going in and out. However, the pregnant mother's water broke in the middle of the night. The camp had a strict curfew and no one was allowed to be out in the camp streets at night, and feeling something may be wrong she had no one to help her give birth. Not wanting to put anyone else at risk they were able to sneak out, cut a hole in the perimeter fence and walked through the desert with their young son and arrived at the nearest hospital at dawn, and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. The family has been a beacon of hope and nonviolent resistance in the area. May peace be with them and the continued work of Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine.



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**

"Greensleeves", adapted from an old air -Ralph Vaughan-Wiliams

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

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

Love 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: Jeremiah 31:15-17*Peter Boudreau**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{31:15} Thus says the LORD:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD:

Keep your voice from weeping

and your eyes from tears,

for there is a reward for your work,

says the LORD:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,

says the LORD:

your children shall come back to their own country.

Silent Reflection***Processional Carol (next page)**

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um-phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn-ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high-est! now in flesh ap - pear-ing!

us a-dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Lighting of the Love Candle

Gisela O'Brien and Joe O'Brien

Chrissy King-Lopes, Kitty

What does love look like when home is lost?

It looks like someone making space anyway.

Let us love beyond walls.

Let us make room for those who wander.

Let us become the warmth others call home.

What is love? Love is...

Today we light the Candle of Love

May this light comfort the exiled and afraid.

May it shine through broken places.

May love find a home in every heart.

May it be so! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song [BRING A TORCH]

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the light our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

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

Advent Prayer Of Approach

Dwelling God,

You chose the life of a refugee, carried in the steadfast love of parents. Let that same love take root in us, that wherever compassion leads, we may make a home for one another—and in that shared home, may you find your dwelling among us. 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

***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: Music and Christmas Party

***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 2:13-18

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{2:13}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.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

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 in Exile*

Anthem

Sr. Choir

Iesous Ahatonnia -Levesque-Sioui, Quartet

Wendat and English text: " Sky Woman, **Yäatayenhtsikh**, fell from the sky at sea. An island formed on Turtle's back, **Atiio** (*wild animals*) diving deep. From battling Twins rose harmony, creation's circle **önaiändih** (*for a long time*). Singing **ahskennon'nia** (*peace*). Then came the missionaries with their own mythology: a child born to Mother Mary, come to set souls free. Three Magi bearing gifts they came, led by a star to praise his name. **Iesous ahatonnia** (*Jesus is born*). The Jesuits' story, fashioned as the Wendat's own, drove some toward these new beliefs as death and war had grown. As conflict grew, division came; the Circle severed, ever changed. **Höndatrawanh** (*they have separated and taken different paths*). Sing thanks to those who've come before to teach us harmony. A world of peace where diff'rences can shape our unity. True friendship grows a Circle strong, for generations yet to come! Singing **ahskennon'nia** (*peace*), **kwaten'ndiyonhrahchondiah** (*let us prepare our minds*)."

Prayers Of the People

Peter Boudreau

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)

145 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Piano Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom

The First Noel -arr. Carter



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.
Sandra, Jill, and Tim	In loving memory of Terry Murphy
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
1:30-5:00pm - Edwards' Family Open House

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4pm - Family Service; Sanctuary
9pm - Contemplative Communion Service; Sanctuary

Sunday, December 28

Christmas 1

10:30am - Sunday Worship - Carol Sing Along; Sanctuary

Please Note the Church office will be closed December 25 - January 4

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



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fbchalifax.ca

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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