



First Sunday After Christmas

December 28 2025 | 10:30am

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: fbchafifax.ca or like us on social media.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: **youareloved**

Prelude

David Fletcher, Organ

In Dulci Jubilo Bux 197 -D. Buxtehude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729 -J.S. Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 -J.S. Bach

Der Tag, der ist so Freudenreich, BWV 605 -J.S. Bach

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

*Call to Worship & Candle Lighting **Peter Boudreau & Kevin Selig**

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The waiting is over, yet the story is still unfolding.

The light has come, and it remains.

Today, we relight the candles of Advent—
not because we are waiting again,
but because these gifts are meant to be lived.

As each flame is lit,
we remember that God does not rush away,
that the Holy Child stays,
that love makes its home among us.

We begin with the candle of Hope—
the promise that God has not given up on the world

Hope is at home in the world.

We light the candle of Peace—
the steady work of healing
where fear and fracture still remain.

Peace is at home in the world.

We light the candle of Joy—
not shallow happiness,
but deep gladness that endures.

Joy is at home in the world.

We light the candle of Love—
born in vulnerability,
carried in ordinary lives.

Love is at home in the world.

And at the centre,
We relight the Christ Candle—
the light that gathers every light,
the sign that God is here
in flesh, in mercy, in faithful presence.

God is at home in the world.

Come and worship.
Sing joyously.
Rest in the Light.
For God is still at home in the world.
Amen.

Carol (from Carol Sing booklet)

Good News: Luke 2:10-12 & Isaiah 9:2-3

Shamim Sahebjamei

New Revised Standard Version

Luke

2:10 But 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.’

Isaiah

9:2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

Carols (from Carol Sing booklet)

Good News: Matthew 2:10-11 and Psalm 148

Ken Margezon

New Revised Standard Version - Inclusive Bible Translation

Matthew

2:10 When the Magi 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.

Psalms

148:1 Alleluia!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

 praise God in the heights!

2 Praise God, all you angels;
 praise God, all you hosts!

3 Praise God, sun and moon;
 praise God, all you shining stars!

4 Praise God, you highest heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD,
 by whose command they were created.

6 God established them forever and ever;
 and gave a decree which will not pass away.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,
 you sea creatures and ocean depths,

8 lightning and hail, snow and mist,
 and storm winds that fulfill God's word,

9 mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars,

10 wild animals and all cattle,
 small animals and flying birds,

11 rulers of the earth, leaders of all nations,
 all the judges of the world,

12 young men and young women,
 old people and children—

13 let them all praise the Name of the LORD,
 whose Name alone is exalted,

whose majesty transcends heaven and earth,
¹⁴ and who has raised up a Horn for God's people,
to the praise of the faithful,
the people dear to God!
Alleluia!

Carols (from Carol Sing booklet)

Christmas Reading

Janet Margeson

From Black Liturgies by Cole Arthur Riley

In Christmastide, we give joy time to breathe. For twelve days, we bask in the reality that the divine cared enough about the oppressed that they were willing to abandon the privilege of paradise and be made mortal. Particularly the mortality of a babe—small and needy and powerless. Christ is not born self sufficient but must rely on God's creation to be nurtured and sustained. How quickly do we rush God from womb to death? From manger to cross? Christmastide invites us into a slower story. A Christ who at present cannot speak, cannot teach—whose dignity, much like ours, is foremost in his very being. Behold, the child who drinks from Mary's breast. Listen as he stirs and cries through the night. This is a slow miracle. We pause. We behold.

Christmas Prayers Of the People

Janet Margeson

From Black Liturgies by Cole Arthur Riley

God with us,

We are in awe of you made child—small and needy and held. We are grateful to belong to a God who dares approach us with trust and tenderness. As we honour your birth, may the hope that has waned throughout the year be renewed; that we would know the world is more than death and decay. This Christmastide, may we rejoice in the beauty life contains. May we imagine the divine not just in the stories of your teaching and sacrifice, but also in the vulnerability of the divine child. Help us to weep. Remind us to never punish ourselves for asking for help, ridding us from the ways neediness has been demonized and mocked. Restore our trust, that just as a baby believes they will be carried, and they can cry and be fed, we would believe and find those whom we can trust. As we live into this Christmas season, help us to remember that hope is rarely ever sudden, but that it's okay if it grows on us slowly—as carefully as the hairs on our saviour's head. God, make us small, that we would be held in you once again. *Amen.*

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.

Carol (from Carol Sing booklet)

Benediction

Paula Antunes

As we go out from this place,
may hope, peace, joy, and love
fill this Christmastide and
may we find our home in God. Amen.

Postlude

David Fletcher, Organ

Allegro maestoso e Vivace (3rd mvt. Organ Sonata II, op. 65)
-F. Mendelssohn

The Week Ahead at FBCH

Today

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

**Happy New year
Sunday, January 4**

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

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

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



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fbchalifax.ca

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 First Baptist Church Halifax

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