

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7 2025 | 10:30am



Image: Christ in the Rubble 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

***Christ in the Rubble* by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission**

Red Letter Christians partnered with artist Kelly Latimore to create this new icon which illustrates the prophetic message that if Jesus was born today, he would be born "under the rubble." Kelly wants his art to be a 'holy pondering' - a process that potentially brings about a new way of seeing.

The hope of the artist is that this icon will create more dialogue among Christians this holy season about the ways our beliefs and actions - or lack thereof - contribute to the violence we're currently witnessing in Gaza. How can we shape a culture of Christianity where love truly has no boundaries? How do we create a world where our poor, homeless, refugee, Palestinian Saviour - born to a teenage mother and later condemned to death - would be cherished had he been born today.



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

Fantasia on "Silent Night" -William Held

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.

Ringling 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

Peace dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Peace 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: Micah 5:2-5a**

John Dalton

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{5:2} But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Silent Reflection

***Processional Carol (next page)**

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

IRBY
 8.7.8.7.7.7

Lighting of the Peace Candle

**Rhoda Lemphers, Ben Lemphers, and Phoebe
Heather Jessup, James Cheatley, and Francis**

In a restless world, what is peace? Perhaps it's the deep breath we take when we cross the threshold home. Perhaps it's the quiet space where our hopes can rest awhile.

Let us make room for stillness.

Let us tend the places that shelter life and love.

Let us dwell in God's gentle peace.

What is peace? Peace is...

Today we light the Candle of Peace

May its glow calm our hurried hearts.

May it guard the dreams that rise within us.

**May it remind us that true peace is not passive—
it is the steady work of nurturing life together.**

May it be so! Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song [BRING A TORCH]

Peace has come and never will leave us!

Peace is life everlasting and free.

Peace is Jesus within and among us.

Peace is the light our hearts are seeking.

Peace! Peace! Peace is the gift of Christmas.

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

Advent Prayer Of Approach

Sheltering God,

You meet us in the quiet corners of our homes and hearts.

Teach us to rest in your stillness and to rise for your work.

Let peace take root in us—

gentle enough to soothe,

strong enough to build a more loving world.

Through Christ, who gives us peace. 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 Godly Play Feast*

*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 1:2-2:1a

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{1:1}An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh

the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

^{2:1}In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea...

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 Bethlehem*

Anthem

Sr. Choir

Dormi Jesu -Rubbra

*Translation: "Sleep Jesus, Mother smiles;
between the threads she prays, come soothing sleep"*

Invitation to the Holy Feast

Rusty Edwards

Prayers Of the People

John Dalton

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.**

Sharing the Holy Feast

***Recessional Carol (next page)**

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Solo Postlude

Leander Mendoza, tenor

Comfort Ye -Handel (Messiah)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM (FBCH SANCTUARY)



The Week Ahead at FBCH

Today

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

Tuesday, December 9

7pm - Leadership Team; Community Room

Thursday, December 11

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Saturday, December 13

10am - Carols by Candlelight Rehearsal; Sanctuary

Sunday, December 14

Advent 3

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



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



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 fbchalifax.ca

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 First Baptist Church Halifax

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

 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.



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