

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

11:00 A.M.

*Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING Charles Qualls

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten* WILBUR HELD
Will Viverette, organist/pianist

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Betty Britt

My heart magnified the Lord, and my soul is glad because of God my Savior.

For God has remembered me, and from now on, people will call me blessed.

God has brought down kings from their thrones,
but has lifted up the lowly and filled them with good things.

**God has kept every promise made to our ancestors,
and comes to our help when we are most in need. Amen.**

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER Betty Britt

**Our Father, 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 debts as
we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN 79 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE Susan and Madison Suiter, Keith Harvey

We light this candle as a symbol of the joy
found in your kingdom on earth.

**For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive,
and brings sight to the blind.**

We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

SUNG RESPONSE (SEATED) *Emmanuel* MCGEE

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called, Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.**

RESPONSIVE READING 78 God the Son: The Incarnate One Betty Britt

PASTORAL PRAYER Charles Qualls

*HYMN 107 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS
(v. 1, 3, 4)

OFFERTORY *Away in a Manger* ARR. DWIGHT BERRY
Will Viverette, organist/pianist

*DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him, above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Charles Qualls

ANTHEM *A Tiny Child Will Come* BESIG/PRICE
Chancel Choir
Will Viverette, organist/pianist

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 16:25-27 Charles Qualls
Pew Bible New Testament, Page 165
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SERMON You Never Know What You Charles Qualls
 Might Be Missing

*HYMN 102 *Joy to the World!* ANTIOCH
 The Lord Is Come

*BENEDICTION Charles Qualls

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Trust and obey for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* ARR. CAROLYN HAMLIN
Will Viverette, organist/pianist



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EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER

Dr. Charles. L. Qualls, *Senior Pastor*

William R. Viverette, *Organist/Pianist*

Sharon James, *Associate Pastor/Education Emeritus*

Steven R. Gibson, *Associate Pastor/Music Emeritus*

This worship service is broadcast on radio WLQM – 1250 AM and PRAISE 99.1 FM
Facebook Live @ 11:00 AM

Franklin Baptist Church – December 24, 2023

Welcome Guests

We are always grateful to welcome guests who worship with us! Please complete the brief information card found in the pew rack, directly in front of you and place it in the offering plate.

Church Offerings

Help our church remain vital by continuing to give. Gifts can be made online on our website at franklinbaptist.org/onlinegiving or mail your offering to the church. Thank you for your faithful and generous support!

Community Living Nativity

Thank you to the many volunteers who made the 2023 Community Living Nativity a success. Over three evenings, approximately 650 people experienced the Christmas story. Whether you helped with the setup, breakdown, music, costumes, or were a scene participant, we appreciate you. And we owe an enormous thank you to our logistics team of Glenn Turner and Vince Holt.



Year-End Contributions

In compliance with IRS regulations, all contributions for 2023 must be **received by December 31, 2023**. Any contributions received after that day will be posted to 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Anyone interested in donating stock to the church prior to the end of the year may use our accounts at Wells Fargo or Edward Jones in Franklin. If you have any questions, please call Bill Howell at 757-650-8893.



Our in-house Christmas message exchange (post office) is back! The “post office” is located in the narthex and will **be available until January 2nd!** No postage is required!

This is the perfect time to take a minute to let someone know you are thinking of them, or that you appreciate their hard work. Just place your cards/messages in the box by last names. Please remember to check for **YOUR** mail each week!

Altar Flowers for 2024

As 2024 is quickly approaching, you can now contact the church office if you would like to reserve Altar flowers beginning in January. Each Sunday, the beauty of our Sanctuary shines through our livestreamed service and flowers on the Altar table. You can honor or remember a family member or friend by placing flowers on the Altar table. To reserve your preferred date, simply call the church office to be added to the Sunday Flower List.

Franklin Cooperative Ministry

Franklin Cooperative Ministry is in need of the following items: Toothpaste, shampoo and men’s shaving cream.

Wednesday Activities

All Wednesday activities will resume again on **January 10th**. See you then!

Faith on Draft Takes a Christmas Break

We’ve had such a good Fall season. We’ll be back in January for our usual monthly session. Mark your calendar now for **January 25th**! Meanwhile, have a blessed Advent and a safe, meaningful Christmas!

Christmas Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th for Christmas and Monday, January 1st for New Year’s. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

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| January 6 | Meet and Greet Reception for the Associate Pastor-Music Candidate – 2:00 PM, Fellowship Hall |
| January 7 | Presentation of Associate Pastor-Music Candidate
11:00 AM Worship Service |
| January 10 | All Wednesday Activities Resume: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Bible Study• Dinner• Evening Bible Study• Choir Rehearsal |
| January 14 | Deacon Ordination and Installation |



PRAYER CONCERNS

Jim Briggs, Darla Howell, Gerald Roberts,

We express Christian sympathy to the family of Stephen W. Cauley, Jr. (Amelia Spivey's brother-in-law), who passed away on December 14, 2023.

Please remember to keep our community leaders in your prayers.

Calendar of Events

December 24 Advent IV - Lighting the Candle of Love

December 24 Christmas Eve Service:
4:00 PM: Pre-Service Music
4:30 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 31 First Sunday of Christmas/New Year's Eve
10:00 AM in the Chapel
There will be NO Sunday School on this day.
There will also be NO livestreaming.

Sunday, December 24

Sunday School	9:45 am	SS Classrooms
Worship (also Facebook Live/Radio)	11:00 am	Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music	4:00 pm	Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	4:30 pm	Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

AA Group 7:00 pm Community Room

Wednesday, December 27

NA Group 7:30 pm Community Room



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - 4:30 PM

Come join us this evening for our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service at 4:30 PM. Pre-service music begins at 4:00 PM and we'll end the service holding our candles high while sharing in "Silent Night." You don't want to miss!

December 31, 2023 - Worship Only at 10:00 AM - Chapel

On the First Sunday of Christmas/New Year's Eve we will gather for a brief service in the chapel at 10:00 AM. Join us for music and an abbreviated traditional service. **There will be NO Sunday School.**



Save the Date!

The Vision Oversight Committee will be presenting a candidate for Associate Pastor-Music the first weekend of January. We hope that you will mark your calendar and plan to attend a meet and greet reception on **Saturday, January 6th at 2:00 PM** and the worship service on **January 7th**.

There will be a called business meeting after the worship service to vote on the candidate. Additional details will follow as we get closer to the call weekend. We feel confident that you will be as happy as we are about our candidate. Thank you for your prayer support during this search process.