

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11:00 A.M.

*Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

GREETING

Charles Qualls

PRELUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Jeremy Poplin and Barbara Salter, Piano

ARR. JOEL RANEY

THE CALL TO COME AND WORSHIP

Charlie Brown

The message of God's salvation is like a refiner's fire, cleansing us of our impurities. While the advent of the Messiah is marked with hopeful expectation, preparing for this arrival places demands on our lives. The main character's purpose in our *one story* this morning is to put the people of God back under the law of God - this time, though, to put it fully on their hearts. They had survived without much of a country, holy city, or holy temple. But they could not survive without a conscience. Here, on the final page of Old Testament history, through the work of a cup bearer in an alien court, God is giving the people a heart, a conscience, and a hope. Nehemiah was not a prophet, priest, or king, he was a layman. He offered no savory sacrifice as a priest, did not reign as a king in Jerusalem, thundered no searing proclamation as a prophet, nor wrote and preserved no text as a scribe. He was simply a citizen, a common person whom God could use. He embodied the hope of Israel. "My righteous one shall live by faith." The way was prepared - 400 years later - for the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us prepare the way this morning as we call ourselves to worship.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlie Brown

How shall we prepare for the coming of the Lord?

With hearts filled with love and peace.

How shall we prepare for the coming of Christ?

With prayers filled with adoration and devotion.
How shall we prepare for the coming of our savior?
With songs filled with joy and hope.
How shall we prepare for the coming of God's Son?
With worship filled with passion and spirit.

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Charlie Brown

**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 90

People, Look East

BESANCON

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Mickey and Pat Futrell

We light this candle as a symbol of the peace
and purity of heart only God can bring.
*For he shall purify his people like gold and silver,
until they shine forth his righteousness.*
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*RESPONSIVE HYMN 82

Light the Light, the Fire of Life
(stanza 2 only)

IL EST NE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Jeremy Poplin

CALL TO CONFESSION

Charlie Brown

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and
confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Charlie Brown

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have
not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives,
our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant
with us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Charlie Brown

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN 132

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

OFFERTORY

Gesu Bambino
Barbara Salter, Organ

PIETRO

*Doxology

OLD 100TH

**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

Joy to the World

ARR. JOHN RUTTER

SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:1-5; 6:15-16; 13:30-31
Pew Bible Old Testament, Pages 430; 431; 435; 443
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Charles Qualls

MESSAGE

One Story
A Prophetic Life Preparing for Jesus

Charles Qualls

*HYMN 96

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

BENEDICTION

Charles Qualls

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground,
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

POSTLUDE

In Thee is Gladness
Barbara Salter, Organ

J.S. BACH

Franklin Baptist Church – December 8, 2024

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 as it passes.

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!

Franklin Cooperative Ministry

Franklin Cooperative Ministry needs the following items: Shampoo and toothpaste!



Year-End Contributions

In compliance with IRS regulations, all contributions for 2024 must be received by December 31, 2024. Any contributions received after that day will be posted to 2025. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

2024 End of Year Tax Planning Suggestions to Consider:

- Consider transferring to Franklin Baptist Church stocks or other investments with gains prior to their sale which may lead to replacing a potential taxable capital gain with a charitable deduction. 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.
- Consider increasing your contribution to Franklin Baptist Church which may result in increasing your itemized deductions above the standard deduction threshold so you can receive a tax benefit for those gifts.
- Consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to Franklin Baptist Church from an IRA if you are age 70½ or older. A QCD allows you to make a tax-free gift of up to \$105,000.

We suggest that you consult with your tax and other financial advisors to assist you as you endeavor to assist Franklin Baptist Church. If you have any questions, please call Bill Howell at 757-650-8893.



150th Anniversary Ornaments

We still have some 150th Anniversary ornaments available! If you would like to purchase one, please contact the church office. The cost of each ornament is \$20.00.



Community Living Nativity - December 11th, 12th and 13th

Please be sure to attend - and bring your friends - to the Community Living Nativity. The event will be held 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (December 11th, 12th, and 13th)**. It will once again be at the Barretts Landing Boat Ramp in downtown Franklin. Contact Kay, Eliza, or Billie for more information or questions.



Lessons and Carols Service - December 15th

Come join us on **Sunday, December 15th** at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary for A Celebration of Music for the Season featuring our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Women's Quartet, Organ and Orchestra! Our church Christmas party will follow the service in the fellowship hall.



Community Messiah Sing-A-Long - December 17th

All are welcome to come and hear the choir, soloists, and orchestra for the Sing-A-Long Performance on **Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 PM** in the Sanctuary! Rehearsal is on December 10th at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Jeremy Poplin at jeremy.poplin@franklinbaptist.org.



Our in-house Christmas message exchange (post office) is back! The "post office" will be located in the narthex and will **be available until January 5th**. No postage is required!

This is the perfect time to take a minute to let our *immediate and local church family* 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!

Prayer Concerns

Jim Edwards, Olivia Burkett Keel and Willie Keel (Harold Burkett's sister and brother-in-law), Catie Kuipers (Brucie Standahl's granddaughter), Barry Roberts (Gerald Roberts' brother), Jenny Simonsen, Ginger Ward (Beverly Brown's friend), Matt Woodbury (Jeremy Poplin's cousin)

Please remember to keep our community leaders in your prayers.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 8

Sunday School	9:45 am	SS Classrooms
Worship (also Facebook Live/Radio)	11:00 am	Sanctuary
Fellowship Coffee	12:00 pm	Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 9

JuBELLation Ringers	6:00 pm	Sanctuary
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Tuesday, December 10

Messiah Sing-A-Long Rehearsal	7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
AA Group	7:00 pm	Community Room

Wednesday, December 11

Morning Bible Study	11:00 am	The Village
Community Living Nativity	5:30 pm	Barrett's Landing
NA Group	7:30 pm	Community Room

Thursday, December 12

High Street Seniors	10:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Community Living Nativity	5:30 pm	Barrett's Landing

Friday, December 13

Community Living Nativity	5:30 pm	Barrett's Landing
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Wednesday Activities - December 11th

Just a reminder that there will be NO Wednesday evening activities next Wednesday, December 11th due to the Community Living Nativity event.



Blue Christmas - December 22nd at 5:00 PM, Atrium

This is a special service of honor and remembrance for those experiencing grief or loss during this season.



Christmas Eve Worship Service - December 24th

Come join us for Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 24th in the Sanctuary. Pre-Service music begins at 4:00 PM. Candlelight Service begins at 4:30 PM.

Advent Worship Calendar

- December 1 Advent I - Lighting the Candle of Hope
- Christmas Communion
 - Hanging of the Green
 - Celebration continues in the Atrium with our coffee fellowship.
- December 8 Advent II - Lighting the Candle of Peace
- December 15 Advent III - Lighting the Candle of Joy
- Christmas Music Sunday with Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Women's Quartet, Organ and Orchestra!
 - Church Christmas Party
- December 22 Advent IV - Lighting the Candle of Love
- 5:00 PM: Blue Christmas Service in the Atrium
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service:
- 4:00 PM: Pre-Service Music
- 4:30 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 29 First Sunday after Christmas (Chapel)



208 North High Street, Franklin, Virginia 23851
757-562-5135

www.franklinbaptist.org



EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER

Dr. Charles L. Qualls, *Senior Pastor*

Jeremy Poplin, *Associate Pastor/Music*

Dr. Barbara Salter, *Interim Organist*

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