



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

First Baptist Church
Whiteville, North Carolina
December 14, 2025

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Morning Worship

Eleven o'clock

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand.

Romans 13:11-12 NLT

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Mrs. Pat Slomanski
arr. Albin Whitworth

Greeting and Announcements

Dr. Chris Hillman

Invocation

Dr. Hillman

The Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy
John, Tina, and Benlyn Sauls

Leader: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in children, the lights and the music. But how often do we let our preparations—our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice and an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

People: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Leader: Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice. God has created you with the capacity for joy.

People: We will find what makes us joyful, and make that our gift to the world.

Leader: Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

PEOPLE: WE WILL WELCOME NEW POSSIBILITIES IN OUR LIVES. WE WILL OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD'S GOODNESS. WE WILL GO FORTH IN HOPE, AND PEACE, AND JOY.

Carol of Praise, No. 88

Congregation

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14 NIV

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Dr. Fred Senter

An Old Time Christmas Story

Mr. Haywood Corbett

Offertory Carol, No. 93

Congregation

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14 NIV

Offertory Prayer

Mr. Stephen Prince

Offertory

Back to Bethlehem Medley

(The Birthday of a King)

Mrs. Slomanski

arr. Marilyn Ham

In the little village of Bethlehem,
There lay a Child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.

'Twas a humble birth-place, but O how much
God gave to us that day,
From the manger bed what a path has led,
What a perfect, holy way.

Alleluia! O how the angels sang.

Alleluia! How it rang!

And the sky was bright with a holy light,

'Twas the birthday of a King.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Congregation

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavn'ly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Children's Sermon

Mrs. Genie Carter

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Ms. Ella Jo Sellers

Worship through Song

The Chancel Choir

Were You There On That Christmas Night?

Scripture Reading

James 5:7-8

Dr. Hillman

Sermon

"An Excited Expectancy"

Dr. Hillman

Carol of Invitation, No. 106

Congregation

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

She gave birth to her . . . Son. Luke 2:7 NIV

Benediction

Dr. Hillman

Postlude

For Unto Us a Child Is Born
(from MESSIAH)

Mrs. Slomanski
George Frideric Handel



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- Sunday, December 14**
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
12:30 p.m. Church After Church - Penn's Grill
3:00 p.m. Columbus Community Band Concert in the sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Live Nativity practice for everyone involved except those working in the kitchen
- Monday, December 15**
9:30 a.m. Finance Meeting
No WMU Meeting
- Tuesday, December 16**
No Deacons' Meeting
- Wednesday, December 17**
10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Service
6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

LOOKING AHEAD

- Sunday, December 21, 28**
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
12:30 p.m. Church After Church
- Monday, December 22**
6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Live Nativity - two shows
- Wednesday, December 24**
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- Wednesday & Thursday, December 24 & 25**
Church Office Closed
- Wednesday, December 31**
10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Prayer Service
- 2025 Contributions**
With 2025 coming to a close, please have all contributions in to the office by December 31st so that you will be able to get credit for giving in 2025.



Ministerial Staff

Dr. Christopher T. Hillman, Pastor
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Support Staff

Mrs. Teresa Malpass, Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Dinah Reaves, Financial Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist

Church Office Hours 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday–Thursday
Phone: (910) 642-2139 Fax: (910) 642-5874

Deacons of the Week

12/14	Gina Morningstar / Bobby Hensley
12/21	Donna Prince / Charlie Duncan
12/28	Mary Alice Stanley / Jeff Mahanes
01/04	Carolyn Grainger / Kirby Sanderson