

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



First Baptist Church

Whiteville, North Carolina

December 24, 2023

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

Morning Worship

Eleven o'clock

* Please stand as you are able.

*"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me.
Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.
But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

John 16:33 NLT

Greeting

Dr. Chris Hillman

Prelude

O Holy Night

Mrs. Pat Slomanski
arr. Diane Bish

Choral Call to Worship

Birthday of a King

Chancel Choir

Greeting and Announcements

Dr. Hillman

Invocation

Dr. Hillman

* **Hymn of Praise, No. 89** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Chad and Kate Lee
Acolyte: Benlyn Sauls

Kate: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the candle representing love. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He exemplifies God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in Him and live in Him, live love. Love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends.

Chad: We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope He gives us, for the peace He bestows, for the joy He pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

Hymn Response

One Candle Is Lit

CRADLE SONG

Pastor: Let us pray: O God of love, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Grant that we may so dwell in Him that His perfect love fills our entire being. Make our worship a time in which we celebrate Your love and are made ready to show that love to the whole world—both today—and forevermore. Amen.

Worship Through Music

How Great Our Joy

Chancel Choir

* **Offertory Hymn, No. 98**

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Offertory Prayer

Mrs. Marie Wheatley

Offertory	<i>Sweet, Holy Child</i> (Sweet Little Jesus Boy and Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)	Mrs. Slomanski arr. Marilyn Ham
* Offertory Response	<i>Advent Doxology</i> <i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow.</i> <i>Praise Him all creatures here below.</i> <i>Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts.</i> <i>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.</i> <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel</i> <i>Shall come to thee O Israel!</i>	
Children's Sermon		Mrs. Donna Prince
Scripture Reading	John 16:33	Dr. Hillman
Sermon	The Greatest Gift of All	Dr. Hillman
* Hymn of Commitment, No. 86	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	
Benediction		Dr. Hillman
* Postlude	<i>Hallelujah Chorus</i>	Mrs. Slomanski George Frederic Handel arr. Lani Smith

† † †

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday, December 24
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
5:00 p.m. Morning Worship
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25
Church Office Closed for Christmas
- 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 27
Prayer Service
- Monday, January 1
Church Office Closed

Deacons of the Week

- 12/24 Merle Worley / Hilda Ray
12/31 Buster Carter / Bobby Hensley
1/07 Willis Pinnell / Glenn Waters
1/14 Stephen Prince / Betty Jo Prevatte



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
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