



Highland Hills

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Worship of God
The First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

The Chiming of the Hour

The Anthem

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Gustav Holst

The Call to Worship

Jeff Browne and Caitlin Childers Brown

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into the light.

You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

The Invocation

Caitlin Childers Brown

The Welcome to Worship

Caitlin Childers Brown

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

*The Hymn of Procession 100

“Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

WESNATE

The Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Cameron and Steven Schroeder

The Prayer of Confession

Caitlin Childers Brown

We live in a world oppressed by sin,
a world of hunger, pain, injustice.

**We acknowledge that we are part of this world
and have not always played our part
in confronting the darkness
and bringing the light of Christ to troubled places.**

We are part of the Body of Christ,
a Body which is broken by the sin of its members.

**We recognize that we belong to the broken Body of
Christ,**

**that our lives are touched by the sins of others
and that our sin touches their lives.**

We are unique individuals

created in the image and likeness of God.

We confess that we do not live up to God's dream for us:

That where God says: ‘Let there be light!’,

we fear to come out of the shadows;

Where God says: ‘You are salt for the earth,’

we rest content with blandness;

Where God says: ‘Before I formed you in the womb I

knew you,’

we live estranged from God,

afraid of the power of God's love for us.

We gathered as people aware of the shadow that sin
casts upon the world.

**We part as people who have celebrated the healing
love of God:**

**God's power to dispel the darkness
of our hearts and minds and souls.**

And so may the God of tenderness and compassion,
who entered this world so weak and so vulnerable,
bless us today and every day unto eternity;

The Maker, the Healer, the Holy Spirit.

And until we meet again

May God hold us in the palm of God's hand.

Amen.

The Congregational Response

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

The Children's Message		Lauryn Smith
A Reading from the Psalms	Psalm 25:1-10	Marsha Lewis
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.	Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	
*The Hymn of Offering 105	"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"	ES IST EIN ROS'
*The Prayer of Giving		Cheryl Sjoquist
The Offertory	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"	Alec Wyton
*The Doxology 706	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"	OLD 100 TH
A Reading from the Old Testament	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Ethan Brown
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.		
The Message	What Can I Give Him? <i>The Once and Future King</i>	Ethan Brown
*The Hymn of Response 93	"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"	SHEFFIELD
The Opportunities for Service		Caitlin Childers Brown
The Organ Postlude	"Savior of the Nations, Come"	J.S. Bach
The Benediction		Ethan Brown
Go with open arms to welcome God this Advent, willing to invite Advent's promises into the center of your longing. Even now in the waiting, be open to receiving what is beautiful though clothed in such precarity. Stand still long enough to let your eyes adjust to the darkness until the starlight begins to appear, the dawning of God's promises.	In that gentle light, find a corner of your heart where hope can stay protected, a place from which to nurture a little gratitude, a little compassion, enough to go around, some for God and some for yourself. And some for the next unsuspecting soul that wanders into your light.	