

Celebration of the Green

A Service for the Beginning of Advent



First Baptist Church
Lumberton, North Carolina
November 30, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Cherry Fellowship Hall

Celebration of the Green

A Service for the Beginning of Advent

The season of Advent recalls the long years of waiting experienced by God's people in exile, praying for the coming of the promised Messiah. It is a season of hopeful, anxious anticipation as we prepare our hearts and lives for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

Prelude/Gathering MusicBetty Hubbard

Advent Welcome Video: “That Great Dawn Chorus”

WelcomeRev. Josh Owens

Call to WorshipRev. Owens

(Please read the bold print aloud.)

One: Many peoples shall come and say,

Many: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

One: We gather in this place today to worship the Lord, to learn of his ways, and to follow his path. How do you come to God’s house today?

Many: We come with gladness, wonder, and singing. We come to begin the season of Advent, to prepare this place and our hearts for the coming of Christ.

One: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

Many: With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

One: How shall we ready this house for the eternal Christ?

Many: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

One: How shall we decorate this house for the prophet of Galilee?

Many: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

Many: By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

One: Today in our worship, we bless these symbols of our faith as we wait with Hope for the light of Christ to shine in the dark places of lives and memories.

Many: We wait in Hope for God’s vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all creation to be born again in Bethlehem.

*Hymn, No. 154 VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Purpose of a Celebrating the Green Service

Anthem Preschool Choir
Little Grey Donkey
There Was a Little Baby

Scripture of Hope: Isaiah 2:1-5 Judy Driscoll

The Greenery

Just as evergreen branches remain alive in the darkest season, God's love remains steadfast in our lives.

*Hymn, No. 153 Congregation
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Anthem Choir
Call to Advent

The Wreaths

The wreath, a circle without beginning or end, proclaims God's eternal love.

Anthem Children's Bells
God is So Good

The Advent Wreath & Lighting the Candle of Hope

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are the themes of the Advent season. Each candle we light marks our journey towards Christmas — the day when God's light became flesh among us.

*Hymn, No. 200 Congregation
While by the Sheep (stanzas 1 and 2)

The Bells of Christmas

Bells often herald goods news. They once again proclaim that Christ is coming.

Anthem Youth Bells
Christmas Bells

*Carol Congregation
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

The Poinsettias

The star-shaped, red leaves of the poinsettia plant remind us of the Star of Bethlehem, the shed blood of the infants slain by Herod, the crown of thorns, and the beautiful sacrifice of the King of Glory for us.

*Hymn, No. 180..... Congregation
O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanzas 1 and 4)

Invitation to Worship Through Giving Rev. Doug Reedy

Offertory Betty Hubbard

Doxology

**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.**

The Chrismons

These are the many symbols, names, and monikers representing Christ. They serve as visual reminders of the many ways Christ is our Emmanuel.

Moment for Children Rev. Owens

*Hymn, No. 185 Congregation
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36-55 Ava Bolles, Bindi Ivey, and Kaitlyn Reedy

Homily Rev. Owens

Welcoming the Light

*Hymn, No. 205 Congregation
Away in a Manger

*A Hopeful Benediction Rev. Owens
Written by Rev. Susannah DeBenedetto, Takoma Park, MD

Postlude..... Betty Hubbard

*Congregation is invited to stand

Gifts to the Children’s Christmas Party and Friends of Jesus
Christmas Party given to the Glory of God

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>
Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Britt, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Britt, III
Sam & Elsie Britt	Their Family
Don Cockrell	Margie Cockrell
John A. & Margaret Currin.....	Lisa R. Johnson & Wayne L. Rabon
Gracie Davis.....	J.W. & Angie Lawson
Gracie Davis.....	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
Sylvia Edwards	H.J. Edwards
Sylvia Edwards	Julia & Mark Kinlaw
Claude Floyd	Diane Hardee
Robert E. & Mabel Freeman	Lisa R. Johnson & Wayne L. Rabon
Danny Graham	Betty; Meredith, Frankie, Noah, & Emma; Scott & Lindsey
Sara Henry	Linda P. Collins
Johnny Johnson	Mickey Johnson
Tillie Jones	Glenda & Phil Taylor
Charles & Billie Kinlaw.....	Julia & Mark Kinlaw
Regan & Juanita McIntyre	Regg, Pierce, and Mendy
Karon Prince	Jeff Prince
Joan F. Rabon.....	Lisa R. Johnson & Wayne L. Rabon
Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Russ	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Britt, III
Page and Larry Sawyer	Johnny & Christy Strickland
Larry Sawyer.....	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
Paul Stone, Jr.	Dyanne Stone
Paul Stone	Gail S. Johnson
Lady & Willard Strickland.....	Johnny & Christy Strickland
Eugene Talton	Sandra Talton
Nell & Wesley C. Watts.....	Edith Watts

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<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Given by</i>
The Silver Belles	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
Allison, Dustin, Grayson, & Anna Branch	Johnny & Christy Strickland
Dianne (Layton) Britt.....	Linda Collins
Dianne (Layton) Britt.....	Betty Graham
The Children.....	Mayme & Bill Tubbs
Linda Collins.....	Betty Graham
Jim & Judy Driscoll	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
H.J. Edwards & Family.....	Linda Collins
Harmon J. Edwards	Julia & Mark Kinlaw
Vicky Hasty.....	Gail S. Johnson
Amanda, Donavon, Kendall, & Julian Hunt	Johnny & Christy Strickland
Lois Johnson	Linda Collins
Catherine Lee	Gail S. Johnson
Catherine Lee	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
Malcolm & Meg McLean.....	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
Helen Odom	Glenda & Phil Taylor
Dr. Colin & Glenda Osborne	Phil & Glenda Taylor
Lisa & Kenneth Rust.....	Catherine Lee
Mary Anne Rust	Kenneth & Lisa Rust
Jeanne Stevens	Gail S. Johnson
Glenda & Phil Taylor	Fred & Eliza Williams
Hoss & Judith Watts	Phil & Glenda Taylor
Eliza & Fred Williams	Phil & Glenda Taylor

In Appreciation

Sincere thanks to everyone who made this service possible.

Sundays at First Baptist

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship

First Baptist Cherry Fellowship Hall or via Facebook Live or YouTube

Wednesdays at First Baptist

6:00 p.m.—Adult Bible Study in Room D-113

Children's Activities & Youth Doing Missions

Advent at First Baptist

Children's Caroling Night Wednesday, December 3

We will be riding the church bus around the community to sing carols starting at 5:30 pm.

Church-wide Christmas Breakfast and Friends of Jesus Singing Sunday, December 7

We will have a time of fellowship together during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am) followed by carols performed by the Friends of Jesus Class. The church is providing breakfast, so just come and enjoy time together!

Spontaneous Nativity & Fellowship Meal Wednesday, December 10

Hear the story of Christ's birth in an unique way at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All children are welcome to take part. A meal will follow the service. For the meal, the church is providing meats. We ask you to bring your favorite side or dessert to share.

Sanctuary Choir Cantata Sunday, December 21

During 10:30 am Worship in Cherry Fellowship Hall

The Longest Night: An Advent Memorial Service Sunday, December 21

A reflective service to mark the grief that many feel during the holiday season held at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Wednesday, December 24

Worship with us at 5:00 pm in Cherry Fellowship Hall, on Facebook Live, or on YouTube. During the Christmas Eve service, the Christ Candle will be lit, we'll sing carols, read the account of the birth of Jesus, and then share the light of Christ.

Pick up your copy of "Starry Nights: An Advent Devotional Full of Light and Wonder" from the church office. Additional copies will be placed around the church.

Give to First Baptist Church!

You may donate to your ministry during Sunday worship, scan the QR code with your cell phone camera, give online at fbclumbertonnc.org/give, text FBC606 to 73256, or mail your contribution (606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358).



GIVING

Servants this Sunday

Please enter at the Sanctuary vestibule for Worship.

9:30 Sunday School — Entrance Greeters 9:00-9:30 am

6th Street Ramp (Handicap) — *volunteer needed*

ECM Entrance (Handicap) — Ann & John Underwood

10:30 Worship — Entrance Greeters 10:00-11:30 am

Vestibule — J.W. & Angie Lawson

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox and Jenna Davis

Extended Session will not meet today as children are participating in the service.

Bus team — Stephania Noncil, *volunteer rider needed*

Restrooms

Ladies and men's restrooms are located to the right of the stage.

Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

