



# *Our Worship of God*

*December 31, 2017*

*11:15 am*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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## **The First Sunday after Christmas**

**Greeting**

Ed Rollins

**Invitation to Worship**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

We thank you, O God, that you have not left us alone,

**that you are always with us, that your Spirit resides within us.**

We acknowledge that you have been our help in ages past,

**that you are our constant guide with each new day,**

that you are our hope for years to come.

In this new year, show us signs of your presence,

**as we talk to others,**

**as we meet new situations,**

**as we wrestle with problems,**

**as we encounter the outcast,**

**as we walk in the dark.**

May the experiences we have add to our understanding  
of what it means to be loved by you.

**Amen.**

## †ProceSSIONAL Hymn 181

As with Gladness Men of Old

*(Please turn to face the cross as it enters)*

## †Passing the Peace of Christ

### Gospel Reading

Lili Vianello

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

## **Prayers for the New Year (responsive)**

God of wisdom and truth,  
at the beginning of this new year  
we look back and we look forward.

In the year that has passed  
we experienced joy and we experienced sorrow;  
we felt blessed and we felt challenged.  
Some things went by much too fast,  
and some things lingered for far too long.

Here in this place,

**we are reminded that you are present through it all.**

**We are reminded that we are never alone.**

**We are reminded that nothing can separate us from your love.**

So at the beginning of this new year,  
we pause now in silence  
to reflect on the year that has passed.

**We remember the things from this past year that  
we are most thankful for.**

**We recall the moments we were the happiest.**

**We consider the times we felt most alive.**

We recognize the times we gave and received the most love.

*(silence)*

We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times of light.

We also remember the things from this past year that we are least thankful for.

**We recall the moments we were the least happy.**

**We consider the times we felt life draining from us.**

**We recognize the times we gave and received the least love.**

*(silence)*

We are grateful, God, that you were present in those times of darkness too.

Gracious God,  
at the beginning of this new year,  
we also look forward to the year to come.  
We are confident that you will be with us still,  
when we are thankful and when we are not;  
when we are happy and when we are sad;  
when we feel alive and when we feel drained;  
when we give and receive love and when we do not.

God, the world we live in is messy and challenging,  
it is the world of King Herod,  
a world of pain,

**a world of doubt**

a world of fear

**a world of jealousy,**

a world of violence,

**a world of domination,**

a world of injustice,

**a world of human failings.**

Yet, God, you are with us always.

So give us grace and give us courage  
to live faithfully in this imperfect world.

**Remind us always of the promise of your kingdom,  
emerging around us and through us.**

It is for this kingdom that we now pray,  
using the words Jesus taught us.

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against  
us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is  
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.**

†Hymn 185

We Three Kings

Message

Walking in the Night

Brittany McDonald Null

†Hymn 78

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

## †Offertory Prayer (unison)

Loving God,

We offer you our gold:

The morning on the wing

The glow on the faces of children at play

The shining moments that brighten our lives.

We offer you our frankincense:

The quiet reassurance of familiar things

The grace of care and friendship

The blessing of bread and our heart's yearning in prayer.

We offer you our myrrh:

The ashes of our dreams

The bitter taste of our failures

The shadows through which we stumble.

Transform our inadequate gifts,

that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise,

and transform our lives

to reflect more deeply your justice and joy

In the life of the world.

Amen.

## Offertory

### †Benediction (responsive)

When the song of the angels is stilled,

when the star in the sky is gone;

**when the kings and princes are home,**

**when the shepherds are back with their flocks,**

the work of Christmas begins,

**to find the lost, to heal the broken,**

**to feed the hungry, to release the prisoners,**

**to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers and sisters.**

Go now, and do the work of Christmas.

Amen.

## Postlude

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## Week at a Glance

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### Monday, January 1

Office closed; no activities scheduled

### Tuesday, January 2

Office closed; no activities scheduled

### Wednesday, January 3

No rehearsals scheduled

### Thursday, January 4

6:30-7:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

*Fellowship Hall*

### Sunday, January 7

10:15 am Community Leader Forum

*Fellowship Hall*

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# Announcements

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## Dreaming Together in 2018

**Sunday, January 7 and 14, 10:15 am Community Leader Forum:** During the Sunday Morning Small Group Hour, we will hear from different community leaders about Columbia from their perspective. It is an opportunity to learn more about the community we are called to serve! Come hear from Columbia leaders including Jim Spain, newly appointed Interim Provost for at MU; and Stephanie Browning, Director of Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services.

**Sunday, January 28, 9:15 am Combined Worship & Ministry Review:** We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast and a ministry review. This will be an opportunity to learn about all the different ministries and to reflect on them. To ask questions like: what in congregational life is working well? What needs improvement? If we were going to drop something, what would it be?

**Saturday, February 3, 9:00 am Visioning Listening Session:** Dr. Chris Gambill will lead us in a time of reflection on our past. This will be opportunity for you to share what the church means to you and when we have been at our best.

**Sunday, February 4, 9:15 am Combined Worship & Visioning Listening Session:** We will come together for Combined Worship at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship, we will move to the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast and a visioning session led by Dr. Chris Gambill in which we will reflect on the gifts God has given us and how we might use them in unique ways for ministry.

## Church Business Meeting

A business meeting will be held on January 21 at 10:15 (during the Small Group hour) to discuss and approve the budget and the nomination of church leadership for 2018.



## Critical Conversations in Troubled Times

Beginning in January, First Baptist will be partnering with Second Missionary Baptist Church and Broadway Christian Church to participate in a conversation about racism and how faith communities can help bring about grassroots change. The kickoff will be a potluck dinner on January 14 at 4:30 at Second Missionary Baptist Church in Columbia. The meat will be provided. You are invited to bring a dish of food to share.

The conversation will revolve around reading and discussing “America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America” by Jim Wallis. We will meet monthly on a Sunday evening to talk about the book and learn from one another. The books are being provided by a grant, which Broadway received. To get your free book and join the conversation, RSVP to Janet Deneke at [churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org).

## First Kids Music

First Kids Music will meet on Sunday, January 14 at 4 pm to begin preparing to sing in combined worship February 4, and during Easter worship on April 1.

## Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University will be offered on Wednesday evenings, January 10 through March 7, 2018 from 6-7:30 pm in the conference room. Amanda Jacobs will facilitate the class, which is based on videos and reading materials by Dave Ramsey. You can save \$20 on registration by visiting <https://fpu.com/1053453>.

## Odyssey Chamber Music Series

On Saturday, January 13 at 3 pm, the Odyssey series presents a children's concert, Kids@Heart: Tales Around the World. The event is in collaboration with the Mid-Missouri Area Music Teachers Association. Performers include students of Carrie Conklin, Janelle Lutz, Anne Manahan, and Ayako Tsuruta.

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# Worship Notes

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The Prayers for the New Year was written by John W. Vest and posted on John Vest.  
<http://johnvest.com/>

The Offertory Prayer is posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.  
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>.

The Benediction text is by Howard Thurman.

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Thank you for worshiping with us today! If you wish to share this worship experience with a neighbor, the service is broadcast live, and the sermon is available on our website within a week.





## 11:15 am Traditional Worship Service

*For those who may prefer a more contemporary worship experience, First Baptist Church offers  
Awakening Contemporary Worship at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.*

For Children During Worship:

1<sup>st</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family.

Children (Birth-Kindergarten) can be dropped off in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary, prior to worship where they will be cared for by our professional staff.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

Birth-Age 3 childcare is provided by our professional staff in the nursery, located next to the sanctuary.

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups which dive into various topics (visitors and guests welcomed):

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Discussion Class in the parlor on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library.

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1112 E. Broadway | 573-442-1149 | [www.fbc-columbia.org](http://www.fbc-columbia.org)

### Church Staff

*Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor † Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor*

*Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions*

*Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident*

*Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry*

*Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist*

*Jess Wolfe, Child Development Center Director*

*Janet Deneke, Admin. Assistant † Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator*

*Bethany James, Nursery Director † Jason Bell, Custodian*