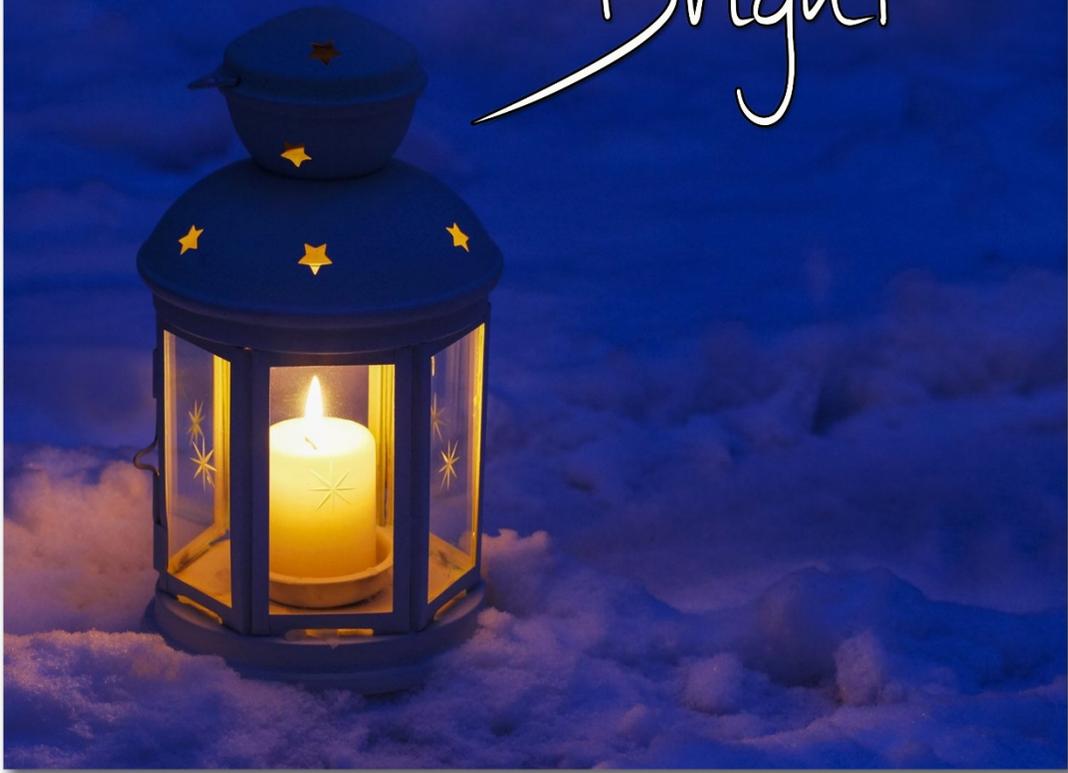


Calm  
and   
Bright





**Peace, Peace**

arr. Powell

Cheryl Brewer, Susan Hayden, Mary Beth Ming, Julie Walker  
Flute, Tamila Freitas

**Invocation**

**† Processional Hymn 162**

The First Noel

(Please turn to face the cross as it enters)

**Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle (responsive)**

Noah, Abby,  
& Gideon Hartsfield

The season of waiting is almost over.  
We light the fourth candle,  
anticipating the coming light  
of the star that shone over Bethlehem  
for all to see.

God of our future,  
we open ourselves to hear your call today—  
the call to keep hope alive  
no matter the troubles we face.

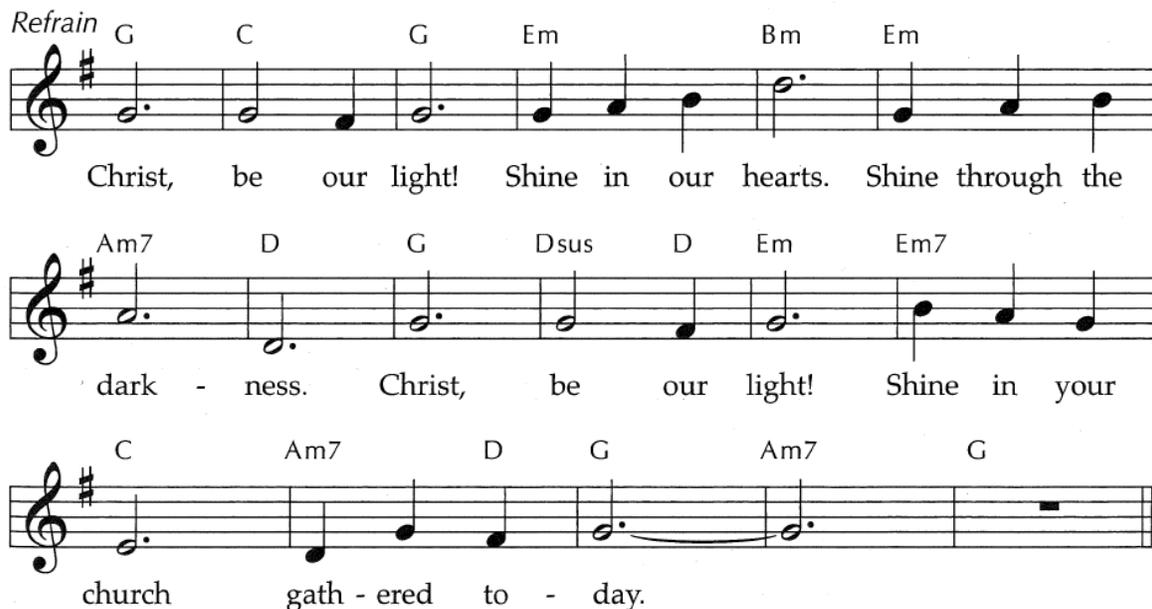
Help us to never lose hope  
and to offer hope to all around us—  
making our lives, our families,  
our communities,  
and our world a brighter place.

**Fill us with your peace and light,  
make the world so calm and bright.**

## Congregational Response

## Christ Be Our Light

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

## †Passing the Peace of Christ

### Psalm Players

Rejoice and Be Merry

### Gospel Reading

Lisa Dobbs

#### Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
And holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
From generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
And lifted up the lowly;  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
And sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
In remembrance of his mercy,  
According to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
To Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

### †A Prayer For Hope

Britanny McDonald Null

(As part of the prayer, you are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary and light a candle as a prayer for someone or something that gave you hope, or as an act of defiance against despair.)

Jesus, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Your kingdom when the humble will be exalted and the hungry fed.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We prepare for Your advent with searching minds and contrite hearts, trusting in Your healing spirit and redemptive love.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We watch with those who wait and weep,  
longing to see the rule of justice and the reign of peace.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We seek You among the despised and rejected,  
knowing that there we will find Your light shining in the dark.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We proclaim sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed,  
trusting in Your tender mercy and passion for justice.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We work with others to proclaim Your truth,  
challenging the mighty and raising the meek.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

We wrestle with our hopes and our fears, our struggles and our joys  
laboring with creation to come to new birth.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Response to the Light (unison)**

**Fill us with your peace and light,  
make the world so calm and bright.**

**Message**

Pastor Carol McEntyre

**†Hymn of Commitment 171**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**†Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory Anthem**

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. Helvey

**†Benediction (unison)**

**Go with God into this day  
May the Spirit guide your way  
Offer love to all you greet  
Like Christ, see God in all you meet.**

**Postlude**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

arr. L. Larson

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## Week at a Glance

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### Monday, December 24

**Offices Closed**

**11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**

*Sanctuary*

### Tuesday, December 25

**Offices Closed**

### Wednesday, December 26

**Offices Closed**

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## Announcements

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### Christmas Eve Service

Something holy takes place each Christmas Eve at First Baptist when we gather at 11:00 pm for worship. For our final act of worship, we surround the sanctuary with candlelight and sing together the beautiful carol, "Silent Night." Join us for worship, communion, and candlelight as we gather to proclaim that Christ the Savior is born. Come at 10:30 pm to enjoy treats from Congregation Beth Shalom and listen to 30 minutes of pre-worship music.

### Church Directory Photos – February 7-9

You're invited to be a part of our new photo directory. As you look around you today, you will see that we have new families, there have been weddings, and babies, and kids who are young adults now. We're changing, and a new photo directory will help us capture these changes. Our directory won't be complete without you! We are taking early registration online. See our website homepage for more information.

### New Sermon Series: Breaking Point

January 6-February 3

Breaking Point: When you are exhausted and burned out, Lessons from the life of Elijah

If you're feeling stressed out, you're not alone! According to a 2017 Gallup poll, 8 in 10 Americans report they "frequently" or "sometimes" experience stress in their daily lives. The pressures of life can be overwhelming. What do you do when you feel like you are at your Breaking Point? This is the topic for our new sermon series, and it's based on the life of the prophet Elijah found in 1 Kings. Like many of us, Elijah was stressed out and ready to throw in the towel, but he recovered. We can learn a lot about how to take care of ourselves from the life of Elijah. Start your new year by coming to learn about the steps Elijah took to care for himself- sometimes at God's insistence.

## Combined Worship and Business Meeting

Join us on Sunday, January 20 at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall for Combined Worship and our Annual Business Meeting. We will pause to look back at the highlights of the last year and celebrate all that God has done in and through us. We will talk about ministry plans for 2019. We will vote on the Nominating Committee report and the 2019 budget.

### *For Parents:*

The nursery (Birth-Age 3) will open at 9:15 and remain open until the business meeting ends.

3-5 year olds can also be dropped off the in nursery at 9:15 prior to worship. Our professional staff will escort them to the 3rd floor Children's Ministry area for a time of learning, stories and play until the business meeting ends.

1st-5th graders are encouraged to participate in worship with their family. After worship, at 10:15 First Kids Sunday School will meet as usual during the business meeting.

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# Worship Notes

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Christ, Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell, © 1993, published by OCP

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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 years old 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):

Discussion Class in the Parlor on the second floor

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

Connections Group in the second 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, Shelby Myers, Awakening Worship Praise Band Director*

*Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist, Jess Wolfe, Child Development Center Assistant*

*Susan Goudie, Administrative Assistant, Bethany James, Nursery Director*

*Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator, Michael Ide, Custodian*