

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

SANCTUARY

9:00 A.M.

Childcare is available for children ages birth through 3 years in our Nursery. Ask a greeter for assistance if you would like childcare during service.

✠ *When you see this symbol, we ask for those who are able to stand.*

Chiming of the Hour Jacob Joiner

Prelude Orchestra

Christmas Angels Medley, arr. Jeff Cranfill

Call to Worship Children's Choir

Born is the King (It's Christmas)

Eli Simpson, Carleigh Varnadoe, and Jack O'Connor

✠ Hymn 102 ANTIOCH

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Welcome Hayes Callahan

Lighting the Advent Candle: Joy Ron Murray

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

Prayer for Illumination Hayes Callahan

**Gracious God,
illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
our hearts may be united,
our eyes may see your kingdom,
and we may love our neighbor as ourselves.
Speak to us now. Amen.**

✠ Scripture Reading (pew Bible page 834) Luke 3:7-18

Kate Craig, Charlie Davis, Jack Craig, Abigail Adams, Vivi Benefield

⁷ When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?" ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ⁹ Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ The crowds asked, "What should we do?"

¹¹ John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry."

¹² Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³ He replied, "Collect no more taxes than the government requires."

¹⁴ "What should we do?" asked some soldiers.

John replied, "Don't extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay."

¹⁵ Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire." ¹⁸ John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music Sanctuary Choir

Angels We Have Heard on High / Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Dan Goeller

Pastoral Prayer Seth Brown

At the conclusion of the prayer:

**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 trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.**

✠ Hymn 124 THE FIRST NOWELL

The First Nowell

Offertory Prayer Dan McLean

Musical Offering Children's Choir

Call Him Jesus

Emma Brannon, Bristol Keiser, Valerie Rogers, Lizzie Shepherd

✠ Presentation of the Offering: The Doxology OLD 100th

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.

Time for Children Lori Welborn

Message Steven Norris

Presence

✠ Hymn 110 MUELLER

Away in a Manger

Opportunities for Continued Service

Benediction Steven Norris

Postlude Ruth Alexander

SERMON NOTES

NEWS AND EVENTS

December 16: XYZ

XYZ meets at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 16th in Morgan Hall. The Dixieland Dulcimers will be performing. For those who sent in an RSVP, the menu is baked ham, hash brown casserole, green beans, rolls, and dessert.

December 18: Church Conference

Members are asked to gather with us on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. for our annual Church Conference, where we will vote on the 2025 budget, vote on a deacon nomination, and hear committee reports. If you are able to attend the meal that will be served at 5:00 p.m., then please RSVP by calling the church office.

December 22: One Church in Morgan Hall

We will gather as one church on Sunday, December 22, in Morgan Hall at 10:30 a.m. for worship. Bring your kids to the Common Grounds Coffeehouse before service in their Christmas pajamas and enjoy cinnamon rolls as a family. (Please note that we will not hold Sunday school on this date.)

December 22: Christmas Party and Dessert Auction

Looking for a perfect dessert for your holiday festivities? Want to help some of our students go to camp? Well, here is your opportunity to do both at the same time. The Children and Youth Ministries are teaming up to host a Christmas Party and Dessert Auction at 6:30 p.m. on December 22 in the Common Grounds Coffeehouse. ALL proceeds from this event will go to help offset the cost of camps for our youth and children. If you can bring a dessert to auction off, or if you would rather purchase during the auction instead, we hope you will join us tonight in the Common Grounds Coffeehouse (Family Life Center)! If you are auctioning a dessert, please let us know by scanning the QR code to the right to sign up, and be sure to arrive by 6:00 p.m.



December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The annual Christmas Eve candlelight service opens at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for preservice music. The worship service begins at 5:00 p.m.

December 25: Church Offices Closed for Christmas

We wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas! Our administrative offices will be closed for the holiday on December 25.

December 29: One Church in Morgan Hall

Worship with us in an end-of-the-year One Church service in Morgan Hall at 10:30 a.m. on December 29th. (Please note that we will not hold Sunday school on this date.)

End of the Year Giving

As 2024 draws to a close, this is a natural time to look back with gratitude at the way God has been faithful to us and the priorities that have guided us. Would you consider a gift to continue supporting the ministries of First Baptist Church? Gifts must be made by close of business on 12/31/24. For more information about the ways you can give to First Baptist Griffin, please visit our website at <https://fbcgriffin.org/end-of-year-giving>.

Floral Arrangements

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary or Morgan Hall in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Brenda Goolsby (cell 770-468-3959).

Ministers

Steven Norris
SENIOR PASTOR

Seth Brown
MINISTER OF STUDENTS
& COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Erin Clarke
MINISTER OF MUSIC

Ellee Hilley
MINISTER OF WORSHIP ARTS

Ron Murray
MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

Lori Welborn
MINISTER TO CHILDREN &
FAMILIES



First Baptist Church Griffin
Regular Budget
<https://www.fbcgriffin.org>

Text "fbcgriffin" to
833-245-5264, or
Scan the QR to Give



Third Week of Advent

December 15, 2024

106 West Taylor St.
Griffin, GA 30223
770-227-5517
fbcgriffin.org