

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent Mountain Brook Baptist Church

Organ Prelude

Debbie Smith

Sleepers, Awake! BWV 645
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Sanctuary Choir

Ding Dong! Merrily On High
arr. Mark Burrows

Ding, dong, merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing; ding, dong,
verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria! Hosanna in the highest!

E'en so here below, below let steeple bells be swungen, and "I-o, i-o, i-o!"*
by priest and people sung. Gloria! Hosanna in the highest!

*I-o is Latin for "Hurrah!"

The Ordinance of Holy Baptism

Wayne Splawn

Mary Helen Frazier and Baylor James Frazier

Leader: Congregation, what is your confession?

People: Jesus is Lord.

Leader: Mary Helen, (Baylor), what is your confession?

Candidate: Jesus is Lord.

Leader: Upon your confession of faith, I baptize you, my sister/brother
in Christ, in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit;
for we are buried with him in baptism and raised to walk in
newness of life.

**People: Mary Helen, (Baylor), now let your light so shine that all
may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in
heaven.**

***Carol of Joy No. 102**

Congregation

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come
ANTIOCH

***Invocation and Welcome to Worshipers**

Ethan McVay

Parent/Child Dedication

Sharon Howard and Wayne Splawn

Lucille Faye Britton
Parents: Colee and Scott Britton

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Wayne Splawn

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Jenny, Frances, and Finn Nunnelley
Jean Nunnelley

JOY

Leader: Today we light the third candle in the Advent wreath. The first one lit was the candle of hope. The second was the candle of peace, and now we celebrate our joy in Christ.

People: This third candle, the candle of joy, is an expression of both our hope in Christ and the peace that he shares with us. Even when life is hard and the days are dark, our joy is in the Lord.

Leader: The kingdom of God is breaking into our darkness, and the light of Christ is dispelling our fear. We trust in something more than what our eyes can see, in that which faith holds dear.

People: God, you gather your people from among all the nations of the world, and you replace our shame with gladness. In you we have found our home, our safe place. Our rest in you is our everlasting joy!

Advent Candle Response

Congregation

Light the Light, the Fire of Life
arr. David W. Music

Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal his glory. Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.

*Choir only: Light the candle of his joy, light the light of shepherds coming.
Light the candle of his joy, light the light that shows the way.*

Offertory Reading and Prayer

Amy Hirsch

Proverbs 21:26 (NIV)

²⁶ All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

***We Present Our Offerings to God**

Congregation

The Doxology
Old 100th (altered)

(There is no Children's Message today. Children 3K-5K may meet Mrs. Sharon in the Narthex to go to Preschool Worship as the congregation sings the Doxology. If you are a guest and would like for your preschooler to go to Preschool Worship, please meet Mrs. Sharon in the Narthex to be sure your child has a check-in label for security purposes.)

Choral Anthem

Sanctuary Choir

When God's Time Had Ripened

by Alfred V. Fedak

Charlie Erbrick and Sarah Rich, soloists

When God's time had ripened, Mary's womb bore fruit, scion of the God-head, sprung from Jesse's root: so the True Vine branches from the lily's stem, the Rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem.

More than mind can fathom, limit, or untwine, this mysterious yoking, human and divine, but what reason fetters faith at length unlocks, and wise hearts discover truth in paradox.

As the Bread of Heaven, that we might be fed, chose a manger cradle in the House of Bread, so has life eternal mingled in the womb with our mortal nature to confound the tomb.

For this swaddled infant in a humble place holds our hope of glory and our means of grace; in the love enfleshed here dawns the world's rebirth, promise of salvation, pledge of peace on earth.

*Affirmation of Faith

Mark Rector

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and now sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whom he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life. Amen.

Message

Wayne Splawn

"God's Will for Us in Our Waiting"

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

pg. 837 (pew Bible)

*Hymn of Response No. 88

Congregation

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

Closing Words

Wayne Splawn

Choral Response

Sanctuary Choir

Advent Prayer: Wait, Watch, and Wish
words by George Arthur Buttrick (1892-1980)
music by Kely Hatley

Almighty God, who has come to us in great humility; make us wise to wait for thee, to watch for thee, to wish for thee until the breaking of the day. Amen.

Organ Postlude

Debbie Smith

Sleepers Awake!
by Paul Manz

*The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Jo and Furnie Johnston,
presented by their granddaughter Laura Lee Thompson,
and in celebration of her marriage to Bijon Max Tajmir
at Mountain Brook Baptist Church on December 13, 2025.*