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# The Worship of God

December 28, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Caravaggio – *Rest on the Flight Into Egypt* – 1597

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# Third Baptist Church

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## The Worship of God

December 28, 2025

**Please use this opportunity to silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices.**

*\* = Please stand in body or spirit*

### Prelude

Lansin Lim Kimler

Peter Tchaikovsky: December – “Christmas” (from “The Seasons,” op. 37a)

*The conclusion to the series of twelve musical months that Tchaikovsky wrote in 1875, just as he was composing his ballet, “Swan Lake.” Each movement is prefaced with a poem appropriate to the season. For December, the publisher chose a light-hearted verse by Zhukovsky: Once upon a Christmas night / the girls were telling fortunes: / taking their slippers off their feet / and throwing them out of the gate.*

### Introit

Choir

Hugh Benham: At Christmas We Remember

*A much-experienced church musician and academic based at Chandler’s Ford in the extreme south of England, Benham (b. 1943) here sets topical words that he himself authored.*

At Christmas we remember that night long years ago:  
When Jesus left the Father for life on earth below.  
At Christmas we remember rough shepherds’ gentle praise,  
And beasts in homage kneeling as on the child they gaze.  
At Christmas we remember the wondrous eastern star  
That beckoned questing trav’llers, the Wise Men, from afar.  
At Christmas we look forward beyond the crib, until  
The child as man will die and rise, salvation to fulfil.

### Welcome

Sharie Krueger

(concluding)

Leader: So, we invite you to greet one another either here, or online by reaching out in the Chat or through a text or email. And we will conclude this Welcome in our traditional way with the Doxology.

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## \*Passing the Peace of Christ and Doxology #815

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.

### Poem

Jerry Bryan

#### Madeleine L'Engle: First Coming

*Most famous for her novel, "A Wrinkle In Time," L'Engle (1918 – 2007) was also a devout Christian whose faith informed much of her writing.*

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
He came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

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**\*Hymn of Welcome**  
#265 The First Nowell

FIRST NOWELL

**Offertory Prayer**

Rob Lamb

**Offertory Meditation**

Brent Johnson

Richard Purvis: Greensleeves

*From 1947 through 1971 Purvis served as Organist & Choirmaster of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, establishing the choir school and outstanding choral tradition that continues to this day. He was born in 1913 and served in the US Army in World War Two, seeing action in France where he wrote this piece even while taking cover from enemy fire! It is a delightful example of the light style he made his own in more than 200 compositions. Purvis died in his home state of California on Christmas Day, 1994.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

Cietta Grose

Psalm 128

Leader: Blessed are all who fear the Lord,

**People: who walk in obedience to him.**

Leader: You will eat the fruit of your labor;

**People: blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

Leader: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine

**People: within your house;**

Leader: your children will be like olive shoots

**People: around your table.**

Leader: Yes, this will be the blessing

**People: for the man who fears the Lord.**

Leader: May the Lord bless you from Zion;

**People: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.**

Leader: May you live to see your children's children—

**People: peace be on Israel.**

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## Anthem

Choir

### Stephen Paulus: A Savior From On High

*Born in New Jersey in 1949, Stephen Paulus made his home in the Twin Cities where he became a highly regarded and influential composer, co-founding the Minnesota Composers' Forum. His musical style was eclectic, but always with an eye towards melody. He was particularly fond of St. Louis, since the Opera Theater here gave him some of his early, significant commissions. This haunting arrangement of a lullaby, first printed in Dublin in 1600, was made in 1978. Stephen died in October 2014 following complications from a stroke.*

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang,  
"O sweet babe" sang she, "my son."  
When she to Bethl'em Judah came,  
And so a Savior is born,  
And was delivered of a Son,  
Who was given from on high.  
And Jesus was his name.  
To visit us that were forlorn.  
Lullee, lully, lullo, lullaby.

## Scripture Reading

Dr. Tommy Simons

Matthew 2:13

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

Dr. Tommy Simons

The Preparation of the World: The Flight Into Egypt

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## **\*Hymn of Invitation and Declaration**

#241 Arise, Shine (Sung Twice)

ARISE, SHINE

**Benediction**

**Dr. Tommy Simons**

## **Postlude**

**Lansin Lim Kimler**

**Fanny Hensel: December (from “Das Jahr”)**

*The opening of this final month in the cycle “The Year” that Fanny Hensel (1805 – 1847) wrote for her husband Wilhelm Hensel in 1841, depicts – through rapid arpeggios – a raging blizzard, complete with heavy snow and a wild wind. As the storm abates, the music’s focus moves inside – to a family group seated by a roaring fire as they recount Luther’s riddle, “I come from heaven to bring good news; who am I?” The riddle, couched in the form of a chorale, is suggested by quoting Bach’s arrangement of this text, and its reassuring message gradually dispels any concern about the storm outside and focuses on the peace within.*

## Prayer List

### Nursing care and rehab facilities

Delilah Canning, Friendship Village, Chesterfield, MO

Juanita Wallis, Cape Albeon, Valley Park, MO

Margaret Warman, Delmar Gardens of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, MO

### Praying for our Missionaries

Dr. Dan and Sarah Chetti – Middle East and Northern Africa

Jana Lee – Cyprus

Scarlette Jasper – Corbin, Kentucky, USA

Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga – Dominican Republic

Dr. Tim and Kathy Rice – The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Kit Ripley – Northern Thailand

### Prayer Requests

Harold Beasley

Fran Blake

Jersey Dukes

Glass Family of Maui

Adam Grisson

Alisa Guider

Judith Hawk

Peggy Hemphill

Laverne Hulett

Glenn Jefferies

Chris Lee

Deborah Lee

Dr. Tim Rice

Declan Rutan

Karen Stewart

Please send updates, addition or edits to this list via email to Sally, Ella or Pastor Tommy (sallyoando@att.net, ebanks@third-baptist.org, tsimons@third-baptist.org)



If you're a visitor today, we want to meet you! Please fill out a visitor card and leave it in the offering plate or use the QR code below to connect with Third Baptist online.

## Calendar for December 28 – January 4

### Sunday, December 28

- 9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, Various
- 11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube
- 12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

### Wednesday, December 31

- 12:00 PM Staff Meeting

### Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day – Church Offices Closed

### Sunday, January 4

- 9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, Various
- 11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube
- 11:00 AM Godly Play
- 12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

## Pastoral and Music Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons, Pastor  
Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families  
Dr. Philip Barnes, Director of Music  
Brent Johnson, Organist  
Lansin Lim Kimler, Pianist  
Ty Gegel, Assistance: text 409.678.4786

