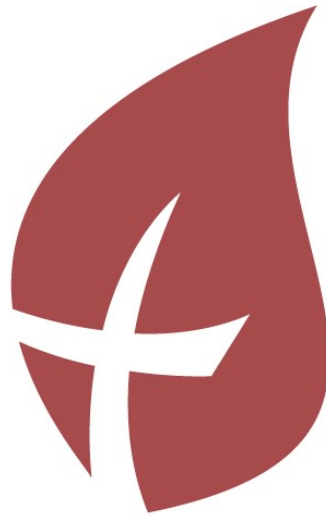


Sunday Morning Worship

December 15, 2024



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

December 15, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

King's Kids Choir

Lighting of Advent Candles

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — John 1:1-4; 14

Song — Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Congregational Scripture Reading — Titus 2:11-14

Song — Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Pastoral Prayer

Song — God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Prayer of Thanks

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

**Message — Zach Schlegel
“Waiting for the Redeemer”
Ruth 3**

Song — O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

Benediction

Comfort Rooms: To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

Visitors & Guests: Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

Call to Worship — John 1:1-4; 14 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley | George Whitfield | Felix Mendelssohn

Verse 1:

Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem”
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Verse 2:

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Verse 3:

Hail, the heav'n-born
Prince of Peace
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Congregational Scripture Reading — Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley

Verse 1:

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Verse 2:

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Traditional | Meredith Andrews | Jason Ingram

~~~~~

## **Verse 1:**

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray

O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

## **Chorus:**

He has come for us King Jesus  
He's the hope for all mankind  
He has come for us the Messiah  
Born to give us life

## **Verse 2:**

From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name

O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

## **Bridge:**

All the angels sing hallelujah  
Jesus Christ is born  
All God's children sing hallelujah  
He is Christ the Lord

## **Sermon Notes**

### **“Waiting for the Redeemer” :: Ruth 3**

~~~~~

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

Nathan Stiff | Jason Brown

Verse 1:

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone

Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

Verse 2:

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts

My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night

Verse 3:

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died

You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, December 15

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship
12:00 PM Members' Meeting
6:00 PM Youth Night

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 PM Band Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Sunday, December 15

Members' Meeting — immediately following worship service

Tuesday, December 24

6:30pm — Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, January 1

6:30pm — Prayer Meeting

Sunday, January 12

Church Potluck Lunch — immediately following worship service

Sunday, January 26

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service

(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)

Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of December 15

Prayer of the week:

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the examples in Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, we encourage you to use the prayer of the Apostle Paul from the book of Ephesians 3:14-17a:

“¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...”

We recognize our need for God’s help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God’s word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God’s glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

Prayer items outside our church:

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)

- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Pray for those effected by natural disasters around the world, especially recent hurricanes through the Southeast U.S. Pray God would provide for immediate needs and preserve life. Pray God would comfort those grieving the death of loved ones. Pray for relief workers to work safely and quickly to bring stability (Psalm 119:88; 34:18)
- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we are directly involved with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

Particular prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray that God would provide opportunity for gospel conversations with family and friends during the holiday season (Matt. 28:19).
- Pray for those in our church family who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray for God's comfort in their time of bereavement. Pray that our church family would come around them to serve practical needs and give encouragement in their faith. (John 14:27; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).
- Pray for our students wrapping up a semester at school this month. Pray that they would be diligent in their studying/training and finish well. Pray they would grow in their faith and seek opportunities to glorify God with their skills and education. (Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- Pray that we would rejoice in and declare the miracles of Christmas as we remember that "nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).
- Pray for our church family as we consider amendments to our church constitution. Pray that we would work together to comprehend and establish God's good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

Margaret Austin, Family of Debbie Booher (died Nov 30), Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Mary Dina, Lucie Lowe, Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

Announcements

1. Church Members' Meeting — TODAY. Lord willing, we will have our regularly scheduled Members' Meeting immediately following the worship service next Sunday, Dec 15. We will be voting on memberships and the 2025 Budget. We will also thank God for the work he's done in 2024 and prayerfully consider where we see God leading our church in 2025.

2. Christmas Eve Worship at 6:30pm. Join us for an evening of worship as we remember the Christmas story and rejoice in the truth that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors.

3. Year-End Giving. We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBCUM. As we near the end of 2024, please remember that any gifts to be counted toward your 2024 annual giving statement must be postmarked, in the church office, or submitted online by Dec. 31. You can give three ways:

- online: click the link or scan the QR code,
- in-person: designated boxes at the Welcome Desk or during the worship service
- by mail: send to the church office.



Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.

Digital Communication Card



Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.



Christmas According to Ruth

Ruth 3

"Waiting for the Redeemer"—December 15, 2024



Introduction

When singing familiar Christmas carols, we rarely consider the meaning of the words of the song. The words in "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" mean that God gives us joy; joy in which we can stand firm. We sing this song as a prayer, because in a fallen world, there is a tendency to slip into discouragement. Joy seems temporary. However, there is a difference between the emotion of happiness and the biblical meaning of joy which is a settled contentment and sufficiency.

Do you feel merry today? Where do you find the deeper joy of which the Bible speaks? The words of scripture will bring "good tidings of comfort and joy." As we look at Ruth 3, we see the matter of "rest" at the beginning and end of the text. This is a chapter about finding rest - the rest for which our hearts and souls long. Are you weary, tired, anxious? The main idea of our text today is: the rest that our souls need is only found in the Redeemer that God provides. This chapter points us to **THE** Redeemer - Jesus - who will give the rest for which our souls long.

Sermon Outline

1. Let hope fuel righteous plans for rest. Vs. 1-5
2. Come to the Redeemer for rest. Vs. 6-15
3. Wait for God's perfect rest. Vs. 16-18

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1 – 5

Naomi had faced incredible tragedy - famine, a forced move, death. This has left her bitter and depressed. In chapter 2 we see a glimmer of hope as Ruth goes to the field of Boaz to glean. Naomi began to see that God's love and providence were always for her, and hope began to flood her heart. Hope was transforming her heart out of self-pity into caring for others. Have you ever lost sight of God's goodness? Did that cause you to look inward? Were you tempted to take sinful shortcuts? Hope helps us move out of the paralysis of despair.

We know that Boaz is a kinsman redeemer, but how would Ruth pursue this? Naomi had a plan! She sent Ruth to Boaz. Ruth's "proposal" was unconventional. Ruth delicately and carefully showed Boaz that she was now available for marriage and that she was interested in him. This was countercultural. She was a woman, a foreigner. Boaz was older than Ruth. He may have thought that he didn't have a chance. Naomi told her to change out of the garments of widowhood to make it clear that Ruth was available.

Naomi took everything into consideration - the end of the harvest and the celebration - yet there were risks to this plan. Would Boaz take advantage of Ruth? Would he be appalled at this action? All the people involved were of good character, yet we are left in suspense.

It is godly to have a good plan. You don't become holy by accident. We need hope to fuel our plan. What is your plan to grow in holiness? Do you have a plan? We also need to have plans as a church family for evangelism and discipleship. We make those plans, not because we know the future. We make them and hold them with open hands. Read your bible to make sure your plans are informed by scripture. Pray and trust God with the results.

2. Read vs. 4 – 15

Ruth had come to the threshing floor and was at Boaz's feet. He discovered her at midnight. The words in [vs. 9](#) are packed with meaning. Boaz was qualified to marry Ruth as a kinsman redeemer. Ruth's request to "spread your wings" was a request for marriage. It is similar to the way God spreads His wings over His people. ([Ezekiel 16:8](#)) There was still risk involved for Ruth.

Ruth's love for Naomi and her trust in God, made her confident to take the risk. Boaz's response to Ruth's

proposal was, "Yes!" BUT he throws a wrench in the plan. He knew of a redeemer that was closer. Like Ruth who was a worthy woman, Boaz was a man of character and integrity. He would follow God's law and trust Him for the results.

This is a great love story. But the real love story is what happens behind the scenes between God and His people. Boaz was **A** redeemer - a noble man. However, he pointed forward to another Redeemer. Jesus Christ. Jesus offers us the rest for which our souls long. ([Matthew 11:28](#))

Jesus came as a babe in a manger. He came to give His life willingly, to bear the righteous wrath of God, taking care of the biggest problem that we have - SIN. He died for our sin. ([Isaiah 53](#)) He did this to bring us peace, rest, and life. The rest that your soul needs is to come under the wings of God, and it is only found in the Redeemer. Have you found that rest? Turn from your sin. Trust in Him, and He will give you rest.

3. Read vs. 16 – 18

Ruth went home and told Naomi what happened. Naomi had left Bethlehem "full." God brought her back "empty." But God's unfailing goodness never failed Naomi, and she was beginning to see it. God was turning things around because of the redeemer. Has there been a time in your life when you saw God turn things around for you?

Naomi told Ruth to wait. Do you like waiting? It's hard. Part of trusting God is waiting. What does waiting look like here? It looks like honoring God's word and not taking sinful shortcuts by practicing self-control. This isn't done by sheer willpower. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Ruth had come to trust God, so she was able to practice self-control.

Are you looking for "rest" in all the wrong places? The rest you are longing for is found in a relationship with God and not anything the world has to offer. You don't have to wait for this. You can enjoy this relationship now. Run to Him. Enjoy Him. Be satisfied in Him.

Naomi and Ruth still had to wait for Boaz to sort out the matter. This could have tempted Naomi to have fear and anxiety, but she was growing. Her encouragement to Ruth to wait sounded like repentance for Naomi. In chapter 1, when squeezed by circumstances of the world (the famine), Elimelech and Naomi ran to Moab. They didn't wait on God. It didn't turn out well. Ten years later, Naomi was seeing the goodness of God. She learned to trust Him. As a parent, you must be willing to recognize and admit failures and repent. This teaches our children how to follow God. Model repentance and humility for your children.

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish believers who were tired of waiting and were tempted to give up. There is a Sabbath rest that remains. ([Hebrews 4:9](#)) We experience a partial rest now as we experience a relationship with God. Until Jesus returns to take us home, we have God's word to sustain us. We are also able to come to God's throne of grace boldly with our requests. ([Hebrews 4:16](#)) Just as God used Ruth to bring Naomi out of bitterness and Naomi sought rest for Ruth and Boaz desired to provide rest and protection for these two women, God has given us each other as a family to care for, to encourage, to love, to pray for, and to bring rest now as we wait for the perfect rest that is to come. While we wait, is there someone who needs encouragement, love and care from you today? When it comes to the ultimate rest that our soul needs, only God can provide that perfect rest.

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Ruth 4 "A Son is Born in Bethlehem"

Family Guide for week of December 15th, 2024

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc...)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

Family Guide for week of December 15th, 2024

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Bible Intake (Listening to God)

Advent Week Three

Day 1 – 1 Peter 2:9-10

Day 2 – Luke 2:25-32

Day 3 – John 12:44-46

Day 4 – Isaiah 42:6-7, 16

Day 5 – Matthew 17:1-8

**Read Ruth 4 in preparation for church on Sunday, December 22, 2024*

Prayer (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 30 of our church directory.

Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Thank Jesus for shining His light into our darkness.

Thank Jesus for showing us the truth – we are sinner who needs Jesus to save us from the darkness of sin.

Sing together

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" – found on page 49 of the Advent Devotional
"The Light Before Christmas" or in today's bulletin

Memory verses for the month

Isaiah 9:2 "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."

Psalms 34:17 "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles."

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Answer: That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.

¹ New City Catechism (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)