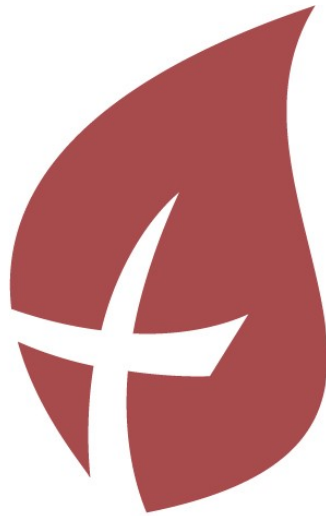


Sunday Morning Worship

December 7, 2025



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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

Order of Worship

December 7, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Isaiah 9:6-7

Song — He Who Is Mighty

Scripture Reading — Micah 5:1-5a

Song — O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pastoral Prayer

Song — Prepare Him Room

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Christ Is Born!”

Luke 2:1-7

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Song — Forgiven

Song — Doxology

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 — Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

He Who Is Mighty

Rebecca Elliott | Kate DeGraide

Verse 1:

Oh the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death's shadow
The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the Cornerstone
Unto us a Son is given
Unto us a Child is born

Chorus:

He Who is mighty
Has done a great thing
Taken on flesh
Conquered death's sting
Shattered the darkness and Lifted our shame
Holy is His name

Verse 2:

Oh the freedom our Savior won
The yoke of sin has been broken
Once a slave
Now by grace
No more condemnation
Unto us a Son is given
Unto us a Child is born

Bridge:

Now my soul magnifies the Lord
I rejoice in the God Who saves
I will trust His unfailing love
I will sing His praises all my days

Scripture Reading — Micah 5:1-5a (ESV)

¹ Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;

with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans
of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the
strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be
great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

Verse 1:

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

Verse 2:

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep
The angels keep their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

Verse 3:

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

Verse 4:

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Prepare Him Room

Rebecca Elliott | Dave Fournier

~~~~~

## **Verse 1:**

O behold, the mystery now unfolds  
See the star shine on the virgin foretold  
Angels sing and light up the sky  
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry  
Swing wide, you ancient gates  
For Christ is born today!

## **Chorus:**

Prepare Him room  
Prepare Him room  
Let the King of glory enter in

## **Verse 2:**

God with us, the promise has come to be  
This, the one the prophets were longing to see  
In the darkness a blazing light  
To the hungry the words of life  
His kingdom now is near  
For those with ears to hear

## **Verse 3:**

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem  
Hear Him knock,  
don't say there's no room in the inn  
Through the cradle, cross, and grave  
See the love of God displayed  
Now He's risen and He reigns  
Praise the Name above all names!

**Sermon Notes**  
**“Christ Is Born!” :: Luke 2:1-7**

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Church Covenant

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Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will engage in assembling ourselves together while praying for one another. We will strive for and promote the spiritual growth and advancement of the church by; sustaining worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

As a body of believers, we agree to maintain family and personal devotions, to educate our children in the Christian faith, and to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances. We will seek to avoid all practices or speech which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We will walk together in Christian love by faithfully caring for, watching over, and admonishing one another as occasions may require. In conflict, we will seek to follow Christ's example of reconciliation without delay. We will always strive to be humble and courteous in our speech and slow to take offense. We agree that should we leave this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with a like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## Forgiven

Brittany Born | Kate DeGraide | Rebecca Elliott

~~~~~

Verse 1:

Lord, forgive us for our pride
When our faith becomes a show
Dressed in righteous deeds to hide
All the stains below
We have judged Your sons and daughters
For the sin that is our own
May we now forgive each other
And lay down our stones

Chorus:

Forgiven, forgiven
Through the blood of Christ
We are forgiven

Verse 2:

Lord, forgive us for our love
Of the things we wish to own
We forsake the feast above
For all the crumbs below
Though You've made us sons and daughters
We do not the world disown
May we find our greatest treasure
Is in You alone

Verse 3:

Lord, forgive us for our shame
When we can't release the past
When we're quick to take the blame
But forget we're free at last
We avoid Your sons and daughters
For the fear we don't belong
Give us eyes to see each other
Through Your only Son

Doxology

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Amen!



## **This Week at First Baptist Church**

### **Sunday, December 7**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
12:00 PM Budget Review Meeting  
6:00 PM Youth Night

### **Monday, December 8**

### **Tuesday, December 9**

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study  
6:30 PM Elders Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 10**

5:45 PM King's Kids Choir  
6:30 PM AWANA  
Elder-led Bible Study  
Choir / Band Rehearsal

### **Thursday, December 11**

### **Friday, December 12**

### **Saturday, December 13**

6:30 AM Bible Boot Camp  
8:30 AM Titus 2 (Ladies Bible Study)

### **Sunday, December 14**

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

## **Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church**

### **Sunday, December 7**

Budget Review Meeting — immediately following worship service

### **Sunday, December 14**

Church Members' Meeting — immediately following worship service

### **Sunday, December 14**

3 PM — Young Adult Gathering at the Arrington's Home

### **Wednesday, December 17**

Last Night of Regular Wednesday Evening Schedule for semester

### **Wednesday, December 24**

6:30 PM — Christmas Eve Worship

# Praying with First Baptist Church

## A Prayer Guide for the week of December 7

### **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 Colossians 1:9a, 11:

*“<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be ...  
<sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might,  
for all endurance and patience with joy; “*

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 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 have direct partnerships 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 their semester at school. 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 for our upcoming Members Meeting on Dec 14 after worship. Pray that God would continually help us to grow in unity and service to one another as fellow believers here at FBCUM and help us work together for kingdom purposes. (Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for our ministry leaders, deacons, and elders during this budget season as they pray and prepare a budget to present to the church. Pray for wisdom and a God-centered vision for how to use the resources that God has given our church. (James 1:5)
- Pray our church family would not grow weary of doing good. Pray we would live and interact with one another in a way that reveals God's steadfast love and mercy to the world. (Gal 6:9)
- Pray that we know a profound contentment no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in – a contentment from knowing God is our help. (Heb. 13:5-6)
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his 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)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

**Margaret Austin, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim and Pat Ernster, Family of Lucie Lowe (died Nov 15), Bonnie Trott, Latasha Wilson**

(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.)

## Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” is meant to bring to your attention active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope that each month you will pray for all those serving and consider how you may support their efforts. *You may notify us if you would like to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM by using the Digital Communication Card (see QR code on the back of this bulletin). Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

### Youth Ministry

The principal mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus; the Youth ministry is a part of the church body serving 7th-12th grade students and their families. During this time - students are figuring out who they are and what they believe. There are major decisions around every corner: school, interests, careers, relationships. For many, these are the years that the faithful teaching of parents and teachers sprouts into genuine faith and the decision to follow Jesus becomes their own.

The transition from 6th grade to the Youth Ministry is transformational because it involves stepping into your beliefs and exploring where you are spiritually. Effort is put into ensuring that the students receive biblical education, using the Gospel Project curriculum, during DiscipleLIFE at 9am each Sunday morning. Then on most Sunday evenings at 6pm throughout the year, students meet at the church to gather for activities and focused learning to enhance understanding biblical context and most importantly applying what has been learned.

Students are challenged, and are given opportunities to be kids while learning how to lean into the Bible as they develop Christian values. When the word, ‘fun,’ is mentioned smiles will come to the leaders and student faces because it is a lot of it. The talent of the leaders to use activities to support biblical concepts are masterful. Students are encourage to recognize their God given abilities and this builds confidence as they learn and serve. Leaders present activities that require team work and leadership roles that may be uncomfortable for students. Over time the students learn to support one another through their tasks and respect shared responsibility.

## Ministry Spotlight

As the students continue through their years in the Youth Ministry they are given opportunities to serve others and develop relationships with other members and ministries. The Youth Ministry has students growing in Christ and serving in various ministries in the church. These are but a few of their engagement: ChildLife Ministry (nursery), Hospitality Team, Choir, VBSSS (Vacation Bible School for Senior Saints), Community service at the homes of church members.

There are two major events each year, a Winter Retreat (3 days) and Summer Retreat (5 days) (or MFuge –mission outreach). These days are filled with activities and Bible Study with discussion time to check understanding. There is a time for Q & A where leaders are given ample time to listen to student concerns and answer questions. The parents are always kept in the loop and are invited to attend or participate in various events to include their Sunday gatherings.

***This church has some of the finest students attending and serving. Anyone interested in learning more about the Youth Ministry, should contact Jason Brown. Next week we will share a testimony from one of our students and a youth leader.***





# Announcements

1. **New DiscipleLIFE Classes for Adults.** New DiscipleLIFE (Sunday School) classes for adults began today. It's not too late to join a class. See page 15 below for class descriptions and info.

2. **Budget Review Meeting — TODAY.** Church members are invited to review and discuss the proposed 2026 church budget with the pastors following the worship service.

3. **Church Members' Meeting — Sunday, Dec 14.** We will be voting on memberships and the 2026 Budget. We will also thank God for the work he's done in 2025 and prayerfully consider where we see God leading our church in 2026. Minutes from our previous Members' Meeting are available in the church office.

4. **Young Adults Gathering at the Arrington's Home :: December 14 at 3pm.** All the Young Adults are invited to Darryl and Cecilia Arrington's home at 3pm on Dec 14. If you have any questions or need more info, call or text Tre Fields (301-357-2675).

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

6. **Young Adults to CrossCon :: January 5-7.** The Young Adults are planning a trip to CrossCon in Louisville, KY, on January 5-7. If you're interested in joining call or text Tre Fields (301-357-2675). Visit [www.crosscon.com](http://www.crosscon.com) to learn more about the conference.

7. **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 the year, please remember that any gifts to be counted toward your 2025 annual giving statement must be postmarked, in the church office, or submitted online by Dec. 31. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

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

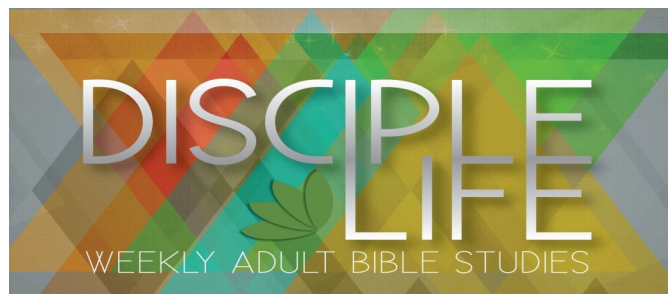


Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.



## **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.



## **Winter 2025-26 (Dec. - Feb.) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:**

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 9AM**

To help us prepare, we are asking that everyone sign up for the class they wish to attend by [clicking here](#).

### **Explore the Bible – Matthew Chapters 1-13:**

For Christ followers, we have no greater example than what we see in the life of Jesus. By listening to His words and watching His actions, we learn the do's and don'ts of living out our faith. As you study Matthew 1–13, you'll get a firsthand account of what it's like to walk with Jesus each day—and learn what it means to become a citizen of God's kingdom. (Books available in room 117/118 starting Sunday, 11/23.)

- **Explore the Bible (Coed) — Room 117/118 :: Teachers: Bill Lowry & TBD**
- **Explore the Bible (Women) — Room 115 :: Teacher: Tanya Joy**

*If you are remaining in your current Explore the Bible Class, there is no need to sign up again.*

### **Elective Class — How People Change (Coed):**

"How People Change" is a video-based seminar that helps participants understand the motivations behind their actions and provides a biblical framework for changing long-standing patterns by focusing on the gospel of Jesus Christ and the importance of the cross. Join us as long-time pastors and biblical counselors, Paul David Tripp and Tim Lane, explain how understanding Christ's life, death, and resurrection help lead to lasting personal and behavioral change.

- **Room 114 :: Teachers - Mike Rogers and Zak Kergel**

### **Elective Class — Discover Stewardship (Young Adult Coed):**

This class invites you to explore how our money, time, health, and skills can be used for God's glory. Together, we'll move beyond the false promises of the "prosperity gospel" and embrace the joyful truth that God owns everything, and we are His stewards. This isn't about more rules. It's about discovering how every part of life, what we say, what we do, how we spend, can be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Col. 3:17) Join us as we uncover what Scripture says about living purposefully and joyfully as stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

- **Room 112 :: Teachers - Tyrone Moorehead and TBD**

**\*\* DiscipleLIFE classes for all ages meet every Sunday morning at 9am. \*\***



# The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

“Christ is Born!”– December 7, 2025



## Introduction

Imagine being on a committee that is in charge of planning for the most important event in human history. You would have an unlimited budget and resources. What would you include? Who would you have speak? What food would you serve? What venue would you choose?

We know how the world commemorates such a day of importance, but how would God? The day that Jesus was born was one of the most important days in human history. The Son of God took on human flesh. Yet on that day, there was no fanfare, no media frenzy. It was just a normal day in Rome, but a tremendously hard day for Joseph and Mary because she was about to have a baby and there was no room anywhere for them.. However, you must remember that with God things are not what they seem to be.

## Sermon Outline

1. It's not what it seems; God is in charge. Vs. 1-5
2. It's not what it seems; humility is the path to life. Vs. 6-7

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 1-5

Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be registered for tax purposes. This is recorded for us as a historical event with historical people - Caesar, Quirinius and historical places - Syria, Nazareth, Bethlehem. This eyewitness testimony was put together as a historical account so that we might have certainty about Jesus. This is not a made-up story to make us feel good at this time of the year. It is a real story with real people, real places, with real events.

Luke was a careful historian, but he was a purposeful historian. He wants you to be certain about Jesus. Why does Luke mention Caesar Augustus? He was Julius Caesar's heir, Octavius, who changed his name to Caesar Augustus which means "one who is to be worshipped." He was a very proud ruler. When he issued the command for the census, people went to be registered. There was no questioning it. Take moment and put yourself in Mary and Joseph's shoes. She was nine months pregnant. This was a 90 mile trip from Nazareth. They would walk or ride a donkey. Ladies, how would you feel if you had to go on this trip? Mary and Joseph may have felt anxious, helpless, alone.

If you pause the story here, who would you think is in charge? Remember, things are not as they seem. Joseph was of the house and lineage in David. God had established a covenant with David about a king that would come - an everlasting king. ([2 Samuel 7](#)) In these verses in Luke 2, there is a contrast - a rivalry of kings - the "great" Caesar Augustus and Jesus - the King of kings in a feeding trough. Who do you consider to be in charge of world events? Who is ruling over all circumstances?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem which was prophesied in the Old Testament. ([Micah 5:2](#)) Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. She was nine months pregnant. How would she get to Bethlehem for the prophecy to be fulfilled? God used a proud, arrogant ruler to get them to Bethlehem. ([Proverbs 21:1](#)) Caesar thought this was HIS idea as he flexed his political muscles. Yet in God's providence, the Caesar was turned into an unwitting tool in God's plan. Christ alone is King. He is in charge. Do you believe that God is in control of all of the things in your life? Our nation? The world? ALL things?

If Mary and Joseph looked with their earthly eyes, they wouldn't see God moving. However, God's sovereign plan was at work in the geography and politics of Christmas. His fingerprints are quiet. Sometimes, all you may see are the difficulties, trials, problems that make life difficult. How do you feel then? You CAN apply the truth about God to all of your circumstances. God is a big God for little people. He is in charge, and He is in charge for our good.

### 2. Read Vs. 6-7

It's so easy to gloss over this passage of scripture because of its familiarity and to forget the shocking nature of all of the events. In Luke 1, we learn that Jesus' birth is a miracle. He would sit on the throne of David and reign forever. There would be no end to His kingdom. He will scatter the proud and gather the humble. He would



trample the enemy and rescue His people. He is the Morning Star that comes to shine light in our darkness. He is the Creator. He is the all-seeing, all powerful, all glorious Son of God. What kind of reception does He deserve? A great one!! What does He receive? He is born in a cattle stall and laid in a feeding trough. The Creator of the universe came to earth as the Son of God, and He couldn't get a room.

Mary and Joseph just finished a 90 mile trek. She went into labor. She was far from home, in a strange place, in a stable surrounded by farm animals. She must have been overwhelmed, even scared. What about Joseph? He probably felt helpless. Don't let the shocking nature of this scene get past you. Take the time to ponder: The smells. The temperature. The birth. The animals. The filth. What would you feel? Can you understand how they might have felt? What does the crude nature of His birth teach us?

First, it shows us the ugliness of sin. The people knew the prophecies. They were looking and longing for the Messiah. When He showed up, they didn't welcome Him - there was no room. This unwelcome reception wasn't only seen at His birth. You can see it all throughout the gospel of Luke. People were blind to who Jesus is. How? [Psalm 135:15-18](#) tells us. They had become like the idols with blind the eyes and deaf ears. They were trusting something other than the true and living God. This didn't just happen in the first century. It happens today, but the idols are not just objects made of wood and stone. Making a good thing something that you want more than anything else is idolatry. Self-absorption will cause people to not be bothered. How about you? How would you respond? How are you responding today? Do you make room for Jesus in your affections, thoughts, decisions, values, schedule, plans, bank account? Do you give Jesus the welcome that He deserves? God wants to fill your life with grace. He came to do you good, yet too often you may be indifferent to God's Son. Do you see the ugliness of your sin? Our biggest problem is sin. Jesus took on flesh to rescue us.

Second, the crudeness of His birth highlights the humanity of His birth. ([Isaiah 9:6](#)) Mary really, actually, historically, gave birth to her first born Son. She actually needed to keep Him warm, change His diaper, and feed Him. The eternal Son of God took on flesh. He was not created. ([John 1:1-3](#)) He never ceased to be God. ([Philippians 2:6-8](#)) He was fully God and fully man at the incarnation. His deity was veiled in flesh. Why? He took on flesh to die for the sins of the world and conquer and destroy the devil. ([Hebrews 2:14](#)) An idol cannot help us in your time of need. Shame exposes your idolatry, but it is also an invitation to you into God's grace.

Jesus' lowly birth was shameful. His family thought he was crazy. He was rejected, mocked and died the death of a lowly criminal. Jesus trusted God all the way to the end. In His death and resurrection, He courageously shamed shame! ([Hebrews 12:2](#); [Colossians 2:15](#)) Do you see the point? Shame exposes idolatry, but it is an invitation to grace and life. Jesus offers cleansing from the defilement of sin. You can have forgiveness of sin and victory over death.

Jesus' birth is one of the most important days in human history. The birth of Jesus is where Christianity began. Jesus set the example of humility coming to the needy. He comes to those poor in spirit. Trusting Jesus means counting the cost. It means losing your life in order to gain the life that Jesus promises. Following Jesus demands that you humble yourself before the one who humbled Himself for your salvation. Come to Him today!

### **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.

|                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Next week's sermon text:</b> <a href="#">Luke 2:8-20</a> "Glory to God in the Highest" |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Family Guide for week of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*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)

(Reading are taken from The Christmas Promise Advent Devotion Dec. 8-12)

Day 1 – Matthew 1:18-21

Day 2 – Matthew 1:22-23

Day 3 – Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 1:28-33

Day 4 – Luke 2:1-4

Day 5 – Luke 2:5-7

\*Read **Luke 2:8-20** in preparation for church on Sunday, December 14, 2025

## **Prayer:** (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 38 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God to show you ways to honor Him today.

Thank God for the Bible and how it instructs our lives. Ask God to give you strength and wisdom to follow His commands.

## **Sing together**

"Prepare Him Room" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

## **Memory verses for the month**

**1 Corinthians 10:31** "So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, to all to the glory of God."

**Luke 1:37a** "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger. "

## **Catechism question for the week<sup>1</sup>**

**Question 21: What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?**

**Answer:** One who is truly human and also truly God.

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