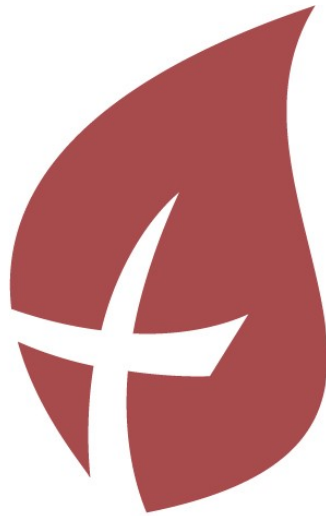


Sunday Morning Worship

December 21, 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 21, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

King's Kids Choir — *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Call to Worship — Romans 6:1-4

Celebration of Baptism

Prayer of Praise

Song — Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

The Word Made Flesh

Song — He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

Scripture Reading — Psalm 2:1-12

Pastoral Prayer

Song — O Holy Night!

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Glory to God in the Highest!”

Luke 2:8-20

Song — Joy to the World

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 — Romans 6:1-4 (ESV)

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<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley | George Whitfield | Felix Mendelssohn

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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!"

The Word Made Flesh *

We confess the mystery and wonder
of God made flesh
and rejoice in our great salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
the Son created all things,
sustains all things,
and makes all things new.
Truly God,
He became truly man,
two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary
and lived among us.
Crucified, dead, and buried,
He rose on the third day,
ascended to heaven,
and will come again
in glory and judgment.

For us,
He kept the Law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags
and gave us
His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King,
building His church,
interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name forever.

Amen.

* The Ligonier Statement on Christology ("The Word Made Flesh") —
is a summary of biblical truth intended to serve the church by encapsulating the historic, orthodox, biblical Christology of the Christian church in a form simple to confess. Info at: christologystatement.com

He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

18th Century Carol | 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

Scripture Reading — Psalm 2:1-12 (ESV)

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- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
- <sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”
- <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.
- <sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- <sup>6</sup> “As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”
- <sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree:  
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.
- <sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.
- <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”
- <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.
- <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

# O Holy Night!

Placide Cappeau | Kevin Hartnett

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Verse 1:

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night when Christ was born

Verse 3:

Come then to Him, Who lies within the manger
With joyful shepherds proclaim Him as Lord
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger
In reverent worship make Christ your Adored
Eternal life is theirs who would receive Him
With grace and peace their lives He will adorn
Fall on your knees
Receive the Gift of heaven
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night when Christ was born

Verse 2:

Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall
True Son of God yet bearing human feature
He entered earth to reverse Adam's fall
In towering grace He laid aside His glory
And in our place was sacrificed for sin
Fall on your knees
O hear the gospel story
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night when Christ was born

Sermon Notes

“Glory to God in the Highest!” :: Luke 2:8-20

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# Joy to the World

George Frederic Handel

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Verse 1:

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2:

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Verse 3:

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

Verse 4:

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, December 21

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship
12:00 PM Church Members Meeting
3:00 PM Young Adult Event at Arrington's Home

Monday, December 22

Tuesday, December 23

Wednesday, December 24

6:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship &
Cookie Fellowship

Thursday, December 25 — MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Saturday, December 27

Sunday, December 28

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

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

TODAY, December 21

Church Members' Meeting — immediately following worship service

TODAY, December 21

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

Wednesday, December 24

6:30 PM — Christmas Eve Worship & Cookie Fellowship

Sunday, January 18

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 21

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 3:17b-19:

“...that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

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 for our Members Meeting today 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 that God would provide opportunity for gospel conversations with family and friends during the holiday season (Matt. 28:19).
- 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 that God would help us look to the new year with the hope that the gospel provides and with an attitude that gives glory to God in all things. (Rom. 11:36)
- 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 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, 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 encouraged 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

One of our Youth Leaders, Renata Janes, has graciously provided us with a glimpse of her experience as she has served with the Youth Ministry. You should know that Renata was previously a member of the Youth Ministry as a student herself, here at FBCUM. She has seen this Ministry from both sides. Renata began serving as a leader 22 years ago, in 2003. Renata loves studying the Bible and the students are very interested in the text and through some of their questions they keep her on her toes. She sees these questions as opportunities to grow in her knowledge and that keeps her in God's word. She also enjoys being with the students and watching how God unveils His truths as they discover insight through their studies.

The Youth have two trips, a Winter Retreat (3 days) and Summer Retreat (5 days) each year. Renata was asked to share her thoughts about the retreats. Renata shared how the retreats really bring everyone together. Renata said, "After a retreat you really feel like you know each other. Before a retreat everyone is nice and pleasant with each other, but after you feel like you really know that person, and you can put your guard down. You get to see all the sides of everyone. It's fun to see them get silly and you can only do that when you feel safe. I really enjoy our conversations on those trips.

The most rewarding thing in this Ministry is seeing them fall in love with Jesus. When they understand and grasp the love of Jesus, you see their entire person change and that makes all the craziness worth it."

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 focus on one or two of our students!



Announcements

1. **Church Members' Meeting — TODAY following worship service.** 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.

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

3. **Christmas Eve Worship & Cookie Fellowship :: 6:30pm.** Join us for an evening of worship as we celebrate the Christmas story of how God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Please bring cookies to share for a brief time of fellowship after the service. Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate with us.

4. **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 to learn more about the conference.

5. **Interested in Church Membership? Attend Starting Point :: January 18 after worship.**

Starting Point is a seminar-style meeting following the worship service open to anyone interested in joining our church family or simply learning more about who we are and what we believe. Approximately 12-2:30pm. A light lunch will be served. Register by contacting the church office or using the digital communication card below.

6. **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.

The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 2:8-20](#)

"Glory to God in the Highest"– December 21, 2025



Introduction

What do you consider to be bad news? What do you consider good news? Do you see "bad news" in the proper perspective? Perspective is very important. When we look at Jesus' birth, it was met with indifference. He was pushed aside with no room in any inn.

Dr. Luke wrote this gospel to Theophilus (as well as us) so that we might be certain about the things of Jesus. Do you waver in your faith? Do you wonder if all of this is true? The response of those in Bethlehem was not the final word. Let's look at God's word for a different perspective on the birth of Jesus. How can you be certain that, on the final day, you will not be ashamed at the fact that you've trusted in Jesus?

Sermon Outline

1. Pay attention to Heaven's perspective. Vs. 8-14
2. Rejoice in Heaven's perspective. Vs. 15-20

Read & Discuss

1. Read Vs. 8-14

Shepherds represent everyday folk. God breaks the biggest news in human history - not to royalty, celebrities, or politicians - but to lowly, smelly shepherds. These shepherds represent Heaven's perspective. Glory pierced the night and woke up sleeping shepherds. The angels came to give them Heaven's perspective.

The angel told the terrified shepherds to "fear not!" The news that the angels brought created great joy - for all people. ALL people. This news is for anyone who will come to God in repentance and faith. Why is it good news? Unto YOU is born - FOR YOU! That is good news. This is good news and the source of great joy is because it is about Jesus! Luke focused on who Jesus is. He is the Savior, Christ, and Lord.

That He comes as Savior is really good news. It's also bad news. Salvation assumes we need saving. We have a need - that's the bad news! The announcement that He is Savior offers a gift to meet a great need. The shepherds are not offended by that because the gospel is good news for people who are broken sinners, poor in spirit.

He comes as the Christ - the Anointed one. This reminds us the God is faithful. When God makes a promise, He fulfills it.

He also comes as Lord. He was a helpless child born as God - the One who has absolute sovereignty. He is fully God and fully man. This is the incarnation.

How would these shepherds know which one was Jesus? The angels gave them a sign. The One wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a feeding trough. He was born in the midst of poverty. If you could see this scene with biblical eyes, you would see it with Bethlehem's perspective and be indifferent. The angels' message gives you the truth - He is the Savior, the long-awaited Christ, the Lord! Heaven celebrates!

A multitude of the heavenly host came to rejoice. How many is a multitude? More than can be counted. They were eager to see the Christ and give Him praise and worship. Heaven is praising God! This also has implications for mankind - Peace on earth. This peace is not a serene quiet day in the park. It is peace with God. Sin and rebellion separates you from God. You start out as an enemy of God. In Jesus' coming, peace is possible among those with whom He (God) is pleased.

Left to ourselves, what hope do you have for God to be pleased with you? None. BUT - this is what Christmas is about. Jesus came as a Savior. ([Matthew 3:16-17](#)) A holy God can only offer us peace through the Son with whom He is well pleased. The good news is for broken sinners who know that they need a Savior. In His great love, God took on flesh, lived a perfect life - one without sin, died on the cross as a substitute, rose again proving that His work on the cross was complete. He did it all for helpless, needy sinners. He takes all of your sin and gives you His righteousness. When God looks at you in Christ, He sees you as His beloved son or daughter with whom He is

well pleased. This is the good news. This is the gift. You must receive it. Turn from your sin and receive the gift of Christ.

2. Read Vs. 15-20

The shepherds could have responded with indifference and disbelief. The reason that we know that they did believe is their response. Based on what they heard, they went with haste into Bethlehem. What did they find? Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in a manger.

If you are wrestling with doubts about the truth - Luke wrote all of this so that you can be certain. God does exactly as He promises. God is faithful. He can be trusted. He can be believed. Yet not everyone believes. ([vs. 18](#))

Luke highlights three groups with three responses - the crowds ([vs. 18](#)), Mary ([vs. 19](#)), and the Shepherds ([Vs. 20](#)). The crowds wondered, but they didn't believe. This is in contrast to Mary who believed. People wonder and are surprised about things they don't believe in. The crowds were impressed, but it stopped there. They wondered, but didn't trust.

Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. The word for "treasured" signified faith. Pondering describes someone who still has questions because they don't understand it all yet. All of her theological questions were not answered. Do you have questions? Ask them. But remember, you don't have to wait until all of your questions are answered to believe. Do you believe the Bible is true? Once that is settled, ask your questions. Learn and grow. We are called to think. Think in light of what the text is saying.

The shepherds had a simple response. They heard the news, they believed, they found the baby, and then they returned glorifying God for what they had seen and heard. Where do you fit in this? Which of the three describes you?

The point of this text is the message of the angels. The shepherds went to see this "thing" - or rhema - "saying" that was made known to them. Then they went to share the message to the crowd. Mary pondered these things - or "sayings" in her heart. The focus is the "saying" - the message - the word.

How are you responding to God's word given to you today? Do you believe? Do you have questions? Keep going. Keep believing. Jesus is who He says He is. God's word to you today is good news of great joy to all people. It goes beyond the decorations, gifts, and food. It is a joy that lifts you up out of frustration and fear. This good news puts everything into perspective. Hear and rejoice in Heaven's perspective of Jesus now and throughout 2026 and beyond.

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.

Next week's sermon text: Ephesians 1:1-14 "It All Come Together in Jesus"

Family Guide for week of December 21st, 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 21st, 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. 22-25)

Day 1 – Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:4-6

Day 2 – Matthew 2:7-10

Day 3 – Matthew 2:11

Day 4 – John 3:16

Day 5 – Luke 2:1-20

*Read **Ephesians 1:1-14** in preparation for church on Sun., December 28, 2025

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 39 (Column 3) & pg. 40 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God for courage to trust Him, knowing that He is always with you and will protect you.

Thank God for allowing us to talk with Him through prayer.

Sing together

“Joy to the World” – 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 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/>)

Family Guide for week of December 28th, 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 28th, 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)

Day 1 – Matthew 5:27-37

Day 2 – Matthew 5:38-48

Day 3 – Matthew 6:1-4

Day 4 – Matthew 6:5-14

Day 5 – Matthew 6:15-24

*Read **Matthew 28:16-20** in preparation for church on Sunday, January 4, 2026

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 41 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Pray for the leaders and officials of your local, state, or federal government.

Pray for the good news of Jesus to spread to all nations. Ask God to raise up and send out missionaries who will tell people about Jesus. Thank God for loving the whole world enough to save everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Sing together

Use the bulletin from Sunday to select a song for your family to sing.

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 week¹

Question 24: Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Answer: Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

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