



December 22, 2019

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Wednesday Night

There are no Wednesday night activities scheduled for **December 25** or **January 1**.

Christmas Cantata

Join us in the Sanctuary for *Noel: Night of Everlasting Love*, performed by the Adult Choir tonight, Sunday, **December 22**, 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Tuesday, **December 24**, at 5:00 p.m.

Senior Adult Bible Study

Thursday, **January 2**, 10:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.



Upcoming dates to note:

- December 24 Church Office Closed
- December 24 Christmas Eve Communion Service (5:00 p.m.)
- December 25 Church Office Closed. Merry Christmas!
No Wednesday night activities
- December 31 New Year's Eve Chili Cook-off (7:00 to 9:00 p.m.)
- January 1 Church Office Closed
No Wednesday night activities
- January 4 Lord of the Rings Marathon (9:00 a.m. until...)
" 'Ring'ing in the New Year"

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com	Tim Wade Assoc. Pastor/ Youth 912-231-7199 tim@fabchurch.com	Tom Keller Assoc. Pastor/ Senior Adults 912-308-3767 tom@fabchurch.com	Steve Posner Elder 912-704-5617 steve@fabchurch.com
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10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

*** Opening Chorus & Greeting**

“Joy to the World” v. 4

Words are on the back of the bulletin

*** Call to Worship**

Luke 2:10-12

Pew Bible p. 857

*** Hymn #93**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Prayer of General Confession

Tim Wade

Psalms 46:8-11

Pew Bible p. 472

Special Music

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Words to follow along on p. 6

Scripture Reading

Exodus 34:1-28

Pew Bible pp. 74-75

Bob Dimmitt

Receiving of Tithes And Offerings

*** Hymn, bulletin p. 7**

“O Holy Night”

Message

Bob Dimmitt

Known by God, Part 2

1 Corinthians 8:1-3, 1 Corinthians #41

Pew Bible p. 956

*** Hymn, to right**

“Doxology”

Old Hundred tune

6:00 p.m.

Welcome, Announcements

*** Hymn 98**

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Prayer

Receiving of Tithes And Offerings

NOEL
NIGHT OF
EVERLASTING LOVE

Reflection

Tim Wade

*** Hymn #85**

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

* All those who are able, please stand.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Known by God, Part 2

1 Corinthians #41

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

What does it mean to be known by God? 3 related ideas:

- (1) belonging to God;
- (2) being loved or chosen by God;
- (3) being a child or son of God.

Chosen by God - Genesis 18:18-19

Romans 8:28-29

As a synonym for election in this verse, God's foreknowledge (*foreknew*) refers to the setting of his love upon the elect in advance. Knowledge here carries the sense of intimate relationship

Child of God - Romans 8:14-16

Ephesians 1:3-5 & Galatians 4:8-9

In human relationships parents give their children their identity by knowing them. In fact a child's wellbeing depends less on knowing his or her parents than by being known by them.

4 times in the NT "being known by God" is used negatively. Certain groups are told that they are not known by God. **1 Cor. 14:36-38**

Being known by God takes precedence over knowing God:

Galatians 4:8-9 & 1 Corinthians 13:12

Exodus 2:23-24

The gospel is a message of hope for all; that they might be known and loved by God and thus given a value and identity that cannot be taken away.

NoEL

NIGHT OF EVERLASTING LOVE

SHOUT FOR JOY

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

AWAY IN A MANGER

O HOLY NIGHT!

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

REJOICE WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

Sing along as directed

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and Child.

Holy Infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Sleep in heavenly peace.

JOY TO THE WORLD!

HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the
kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

And He shall reign forever and ever,

King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Hallelujah!

FABC ADULT CHOIR

DIRECTOR: ROBERT HOLLAND

SOUND: MIKE RUSSELL

NARRATORS: MICHAEL & RUTH KLEINPETER

Soprano

Sona Bailey
Eleanor Bowden
Mary Ann Fowler
Jill Holland
Michelle Leverett
Shelma Lewis
Emily Wise

Alto

Diane Brittingham
Heather Schraeder
Dawn Stanford
Lauren Wade
Linda Walker

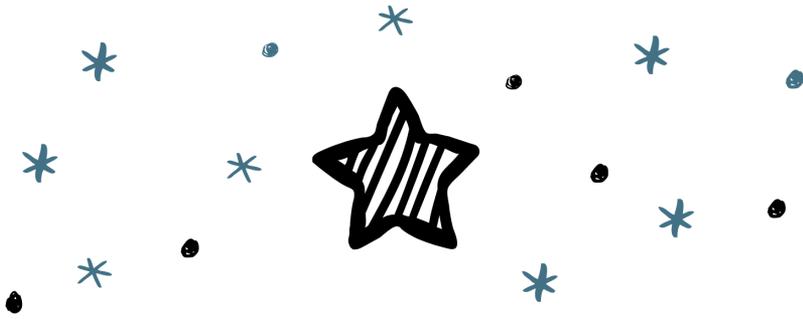
Tenor

Dennis Brittingham
Robert Holland
Chris Leverett
Glen Martin
Napoleon Martin
Dean McCraw

Bass

Shawn Champion
Jimmy Donaldson
Harry Leverett





I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor, ord'nary people like you and I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
The promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on a wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor, ord'nary people like you and I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, out under the sky.

CCLI Song # 7061044

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O Holy Night (Hear The Gospel Story)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our 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!

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 tow'ring 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!

Come, then, to Him who lies within a manger,
With joyful shepherds proclaim Him as Lord.
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;
In rev'rent 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!

CCLI Song # 7031877

Adolphe Charles Adam | John Sullivan Dwight | Kevin Hartnett | Placide Cappeau
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Benediction

1. May the peace of God our Heav-'nly Fa - ther, and the grace of
2. May this peace which pass-es un - der - stand - ing, and this grace which

Christ the ris - en Son, And the fel - low-ship of God the Spir - it keep our
makes us what we are, And this fel - low-ship of His com - mun - ion make us

hearts and minds with - in His love. And to Him be praise for His
one in spir - it and in heart.

glo - rious reign, from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n; We de -

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; arr. Ruth Coleman

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clare the name of the Lamb once slain, Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings!





Poinsettias were placed in the church by:

Eleanor Bowden

In Memory of Charles Bowden

Danny and Janet Edwards

**In memory of their parents, Vernon & Ruth Fields and
Willis & Beulah Edwards, their brothers Larry Fields and
Ronnie Edwards, and their sister-in-law, Jennifer Fields**

Debra Jackson

In memory of Gene & Esta Turner

Neil Reagan

In memory of Evelyn Reagan

Jack & Ronna Sherrod

**In Memory of Pat & Pie Sherrod, Ronald & Sue Lewis, and
Takori Willis**

Kelly & Dawn Stanford

**In Memory of Kete and Frieda Stanford, and Butch Atkins,
and in Honor of Art and Cindy Dister**

Billy & Brenda Waters

In Memory of Louis & Ruby Rahn

Charles & Cindy Wise and Emily Wise

**In Memory of Joseph & Marion Wise, Jean Banks, and Kay
Mitchell**

Articles

Ten Carols to Celebrate and Share the Savior of the World

Keith Getty

On that first Christmas night, the skies above the shepherds' field were filled with hosts of choiring angels. But even before Jesus lay in the manger, His miraculous story was being told in song. Mary sang about Him in the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–51) and Zechariah sang about Him in the Benedictus (Luke 1:68–79).

Throughout the Bible, singing was used to declare the goodness of God. And there are at least fifty commands from God to sing his message of grace and truth together. We have been created, compelled, and commanded to sing. And Christmas is a wonderful time for us as Christians to sing traditional Christmas carols; songs that plumb the richest doctrinal depths, songs that help us to absorb and reflect on the deep and transformative truth of Emmanuel, God with us. But it's also a wonderful opportunity to express this truth to those around us.

Christmas can be the biggest evangelistic event of the year. The very act of singing traditional carols is a radical gospel witness; it reveals the hope of the world to those in our midst who are singing about Him or listening to songs about Him but have yet to believe in Him.

So here are ten Christmas carols that will help us revel in the mystery of the incarnation but will also help us share God's heart with our friends and families, our colleagues and communities.

1. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing was penned by Charles Wesley and included in his 1739 Methodist hymnal. This theologically rich classic is unlike many other carols; it embodies the entirety of the gospel. It moves us on from the idea that Jesus's birth is confined to a sweet childlike nativity scene—instead, it forces each of us to confront the raw and powerful truth of who Jesus is and what He came to do: “Born that man no more may die / Born to raise the sons of earth / Born to give them second birth”.

2. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus appeared in Charles Wesley's book of eighteen Christmas songs in 1745, and it's one of my three favorite hymns today. The song captures how centuries of waiting, longing, and weeping find ultimate resolution in Christ. It is probably less familiar to a younger audience, but the words express a timeless truth: we all need hope, and we all have a longing inside of us that can only find fulfillment in Christ. “Hope of all the earth thou art / Dear desire of every nation / Joy of every longing heart.”

3. O Come, All Ye Faithful, most likely written by hymnist John Francis Wade in 1744, is a Christmas call to worship; it beckons us to simply come and adore “Christ the Lord.” Whether it's sung a capella or with a big brass band, this carol sings beautifully. And it's a carol that will connect with just about every person who enters our churches over this Christmas season, as so many of us will have sung it at school assemblies and nativity plays as children!

4. In the Bleak Midwinter is among our most plaintive carols, partly because of the melancholic melody by Gustav Holst. Penned by English poet Christina Rossetti, the lyrics first appeared in 1872. The last stanza brings us to a place of personal reflection and response—what should we do about the message of Jesus’ birth? What does the gospel story require of each of us who hear it? “What can I give him, poor as I am? / If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; / If I were a wise man I would do my part, / Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.”

5. Joy to the World, with its triumphant cadence and rousing spirit, is, unsurprisingly, one of the most popular carols. Written by Isaac Watts in 1719, it is based on Psalm 98 and wasn’t even originally intended to be a Christmas carol. Yet no Christmas concert or Christmas Eve service would be complete without it. It is an undeniably joy-filled declaration of God’s goodness.

6. O Come, O Come Emmanuel is a medieval Latin hymn dating from the 800s. It’s easy to imagine a candlelit Cathedral filled with the pensive strains of this metrical chant. The haunting melody draws us to place of deeper reflection, especially as it contrasts so powerfully with the more exuberant praise-filled carols. It allows people both inside and outside our churches, for whom Christmas may not be the time of joy they feel it should be, to reflect on and connect with a carol that expresses a deeper longing for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

7. Silent Night is, arguably, the best-known Christmas carol in the world; it has been translated into 300 languages and dialects. Originally a poem with six verses written by Joseph Mohr, an Austrian priest in 1816, the repetition in each stanza of the line ‘Silent Night, Holy Night’ evokes tranquility, stillness, mystery—a heart’s cry for the kind of peace that only Jesus can bring.

8. Angels We Have Heard on High is one of the most joyful and well-written choruses ever composed. The lyrical journey shines a light on the reality of the incarnation in a way that refreshes the soul. This carol contributes wonderfully to that sense of celebration expressed by the angels in the Gospel of Luke. And the first line and chorus, ‘Gloria in excelsis Deo’ provides a fun vocal exercise for anyone who sings it!

9. O Little Town of Bethlehem, written in 1867, was inspired by Philadelphia pastor Phillips Brooks’ visit to Bethlehem. The first three verses take us through the events of the night Christ was born, with the fourth and final verse culminating in a heart-felt response: “Cast out our sin and enter in / Be born in us today.” Often a favorite with children, it was in fact first sung by a group of Sunday School children and their teachers. Which is perhaps why it is still beloved by many in our nation today, appearing in a BBC poll of the top ten most-loved carols.

10. Once in Royal David’s City is perhaps less popular than it used to be, but we mustn’t lose its message or music. Cecil Frances Alexander was an Irish pastor’s wife who published this carol for children in 1848. It ultimately reminds all who sing it of the humanity of Jesus and the tremendous mystery of God becoming man: “He was little, weak, and helpless / Tears and smiles, like us He knew.”

These ten carols are treasures that cause all of us, Christians and non-Christians alike, to pause and remember that hope has dawned; the promised Messiah has come, and the world will never be the same again. O come, let us adore Him—Christ the Lord! ❖

Forgetting the Past

By Ed Welch

A seventy-five-year-old man wanted to talk about his past, especially his childhood and early teen years, because his past felt so present. Like many of us, he wanted to be less controlled by his past and jettison its haunting episodes.

Scripture does help us with our painful pasts, but it does more than that. It tells us to forget things we *want* to remember, and remember things we are likely to forget. Consider what Paul says in Philipians.

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:13-14)

In the verses just before these, Paul gives us a succinct autobiography that is intended to shape our own. True to form, Paul puts a curious twist on his story. He begins *not* by recounting his failures and sins but rather by remembering his successes. He essentially says, “*I was born into the right tribe, and I did all the right things. My resume is, in fact, quite impressive.*” Paul’s story also includes being the “*worst of sinners*” (1 Tim. 1:15), but in this retelling he identifies something that is even more important—he had a growing reputation before he came to Jesus, and he liked it. He had, in short, trusted in his successes.

It raises some obvious questions. What good things were we trusting in before we knew Jesus? Where did we rest for personal reputation? Was there any accomplishment or personal characteristic in which you took special pride? These questions shape the first part of our story. One reason they are worth identifying is that those props to our identity probably still linger. They were ways that we were (and still are) looking for righteousness in ourselves.

It is this “good” history that Paul forcibly discards from his memory. It turns out that he was talking about past sins, but they were located more in his good deeds than bad.

If we continue to follow Scripture on forgetting the past, we learn that whereas Paul wants us to forget our past achievements, Peter wants us to *not* forget our past forgiveness of sins.

For whoever lacks these qualities [the fruits of the Spirit] is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. (2 Peter 1:9)

Here too we might be taken by surprise. Peter asks if we have stalled in our spiritual growth due to hard times. Have we cooled in our passion for Christ, our love for brothers and sisters, or our battle with unwieldy desires? Peter is not asking us to consider past hurts or regrets, at least he isn’t focusing on such things in this passage. Instead, if we are not looking like transformed people in the present, Peter says that we should consider that everything changed when we were forgiven in Christ.

We have forgotten, Peter says, the very foundation of life. It is not so much that we still feel guilty for past sins; it is that we are indifferent to the cleansing and regenerating work of Jesus.

Scripture does speak to the past pain, shame and regret that the seventy-five-year-old man experiences, but it also offers an unexpected way forward. As we consider Scripture’s broader teaching about our pasts, it includes not just leaving behind the bad experiences, it also tells us to forget our good deeds and exhorts us to remember past forgiveness as a way to be growing today. ❖

Missionary of the Week

Carlos & Sandy Rios TEAM - Guadalajara, Mexico

Carlos and Sandy are planting a church, Rivers of Grace, in Guadalajara, Mexico. Sandy had a recent cancer scare, and has been on our prayer list. This update came this past week:

Update on Sandy

Thanks for praying for me regarding the abnormal mammogram. Carlos and I went to the MD Anderson Hospital in Houston on November 27th and I had a mammogram done (various angles and 3-D) and an ultrasound and finally an ultrasound-guided needle biopsy. Since that was the day before the Thanksgiving holidays, it delayed getting the results of my tests. Finally, on Tuesday, December 3rd, we received a call that the mass was benign and that it was a stromal fibrosis. We are so thankful to the Lord and for your prayers. There were shouts and tears of joy. Oh, the depth of emotion. What a sense of relief. We didn't realize how much stress this whole situation had brought into our lives.

But we were told that we would have to wait to get the report from the radiologist to confirm that and to tell us the next step. We did not get that news until Monday, December 9th. The radiologist did confirm the first mass was benign, but she wanted to clarify the second mass. So, she said I need to have an MRI done. They would rather err on the side of being too cautious than not cautious enough. That MRI could not be done until 3 weeks after the biopsy. We wanted to have it done in December since we have already paid the high deductible for our insurance. That said, I am flying up to Houston tomorrow night and on Wednesday I will have the MRI. I will then fly back on Thursday night. They won't have the results for a day or two. PLEASE PRAY for the Lord's will to be done. Of course, we would be delighted if they can determine that it is nothing to be concerned about and that there is nothing more to be done, but whatever they tell us, we want to accept it from God's hand. Whatever the results we want His name to be glorified.

We have been able to feel the Lord's peace in the midst of uncertainty, thanks to your prayers. We have had moments of tears and of fears, which we have fully felt and handed them over to the Lord. Saturday, I found this treasure that seemed to be just for me! "So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid (or discouraged) and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will PERSONALLY go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." Deuteronomy 31:6 I didn't even realize until just now that this verse was the theme of our last prayer letter. ("I have gone before you and I have prepared the way.") We will keep you informed as soon as we find out the results.

Trusting and Rejoicing,
Carlos and Sandy Rios



Sunday School Classes & Descriptions

Adult

“Job” - Fellowship Hall:
 Bob Dimmitt/Chris Leverett
 “Lessons from the Upper Room (John 13-17)” by Sinclair Ferguson - Youth House: Steve Posner.

Students & Children

Babies - Room 3: Kay Stanford & Sandra Bridges
 1s & 2s - Room 24: Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter/Kamee Roberson
 3s & 4s - Room 25: Emily Wise, Susan Su, Savannah Martin, Haley Bull
 Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade - Room 200: John & Pam Humphrey
 3rd-6th Grade Boys - Room 202: Richie Mills
 3rd-6th Grade Girls - Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
 Youth Guys - Room 206: Tim Wade, Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion
 Youth Girls - Room 208: Sona Bailey, Jessica Dimmitt, Lauren Wade



This Week at FABC

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Cantata Choir Warmup	5:00 p.m.
Noel: Night of Everlasting Love	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Christmas Eve Communion 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Merry Christmas!
 No Wednesday Activities Scheduled

Bible Reading Schedule

December 2019

	1	1 Corinthians 9-11
	2	1 Corinthians 12-14
	3	1 Corinthians 15-16
	4	2 Corinthians 1-4
	5	2 Corinthians 5-9
	6	2 Corinthians 10-13
	7	Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
	8	Romans 4-7
	9	Romans 8-10
	10	Romans 11-13
	11	Romans 14-16
	12	Acts 20:4-23:35
	13	Acts 24-26
	14	Acts 27-28
	15	Colossians; Philemon
	16	Ephesians
	17	Philippians
	18	1 Timothy
	19	Titus
	20	1 Peter
	21	Hebrews 1-6
	22	Hebrews 7-10
	23	Hebrews 11-13
	24	2 Timothy
	25	2 Peter; Jude
	26	1 John
	27	2 John; 3 John
	28	Revelation 1-5
	29	Revelation 6-11
	30	Revelation 12-18
	31	Revelation 19-22



Joy to the World

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.



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from
www.fabchurch.com/sermons

For Hearing Impaired

If you have difficulties hearing, we have listening aid devices available. Ask any of the ushers, or the technician in the sound booth, if you are in need of one of these devices.

Church Phone: 355-0949
Church Email: office@fabchurch.com
Church Website: www.fabchurch.com

Nursery December 22

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Shelma Lewis, Linda Walker

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Lisa & Addisyn Rowe/
Myri Hymon, Bethany Humphrey

6:00 P.M.

Tricia Sumner, Amy Keller

Nursery December 29

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Susan Su, Kay Stanford

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Barbara Mason, Allie Mills/
Jennifer & Ruby Doyle

6:00 P.M.

Sharon Boaen, Cindy Dimmitt,
Dawn Stanford

Ushers December 22

10:30 A.M.

Jimmy Kicklighter, Mike Morris,
Danny Roberson, Kelly Stanford

6:00 P.M.

Joe Morris, Jay Rowe

Ushers December 24

5:00 p.m.

Kelly Stanford, John Sumner

Ushers December 29

10:30 A.M.

John Sumner, Michael Walker,
Billy Waters, Johnny Bridges

6:00 P.M.

Jimmy Donaldson, Ron Fowler

Sunday Greeters - December 22

Ceci Sheffield, Mary Fowler

December Lock-Up Deacons

John Sumner, Michael Walker