



December 27, 2020

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Office Closed

The office will be closed on **December 31 and January 1**.

Missionary Visit & After Church Fellowship!

We'll have evening worship tonight, Sunday, **December 27**. David and Natalie Holsten will share and minister in the evening service in the Fellowship Hall, and we will have an after church fellowship following the service. Bring something that requires minimum preparation, as to keep commotion down during the service.

Blood Drive

There is a Red Cross Blood Drive here on Tuesday, **December 29**. See p. 4 for info!

Senior Saints' Bible Study

Join Tom Keller for the Thursday Morning Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, **December 31**. Coffee will be provided. This study should also be streamed live on YouTube.

New Year's Eve

To celebrate the end of 2020, we will have a fun time of food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, **December 31**, at 7:00 p.m.. We will have a Chicken Wing Cookoff and see who gets to house the coveted Champions' Apron in 2021. If you don't want to prepare wings for the competition, bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Reminder

All contributions must be postmarked or brought in the office by **December 31** in order to be included on your 2020 contribution statements.

Old Savannah City Mission

Tom Keller is ministering at the Old Savannah City Mission on Saturday, **January 2**. Please contact him if you would like to help with lunch.

Elders' Meeting

The Elders will meet on Tuesday, **January 5**. Please respond to any email you receive from them.

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt
Senior Pastor
912-398-4363
bob@fabchurch.com

Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/
Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Steve Posner
Elder
912-704-5617
steve@fabchurch.com

Church Phone:
912-355-0949
office@fabchurch.com
www.fabchurch.com

December 27, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship
Micah 5:2-5a

Hymn #98, bulletin p. 4
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Prayer of General Confession
Steve Posner

Hymn, bulletin p. 5
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Scripture Reading
Mark 6:14-29
Steve Jackson

Hymn, bulletin p. 6
"Who Is He in Yonder Stall?"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Spiritual Gifts & the Church, Part 14
1 Corinthians 12:14-28, 1 Corinthians #83

Hymn, below
"Christmas Doxology"
Angels from the Realms of Glory tune

Christmas Doxology

All Creation, join in praising,
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal three in one:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

A.M. Notes

Spiritual Gifts & the Church, Part 14

1 Corinthians #83

1 Corinthians 12:14-28

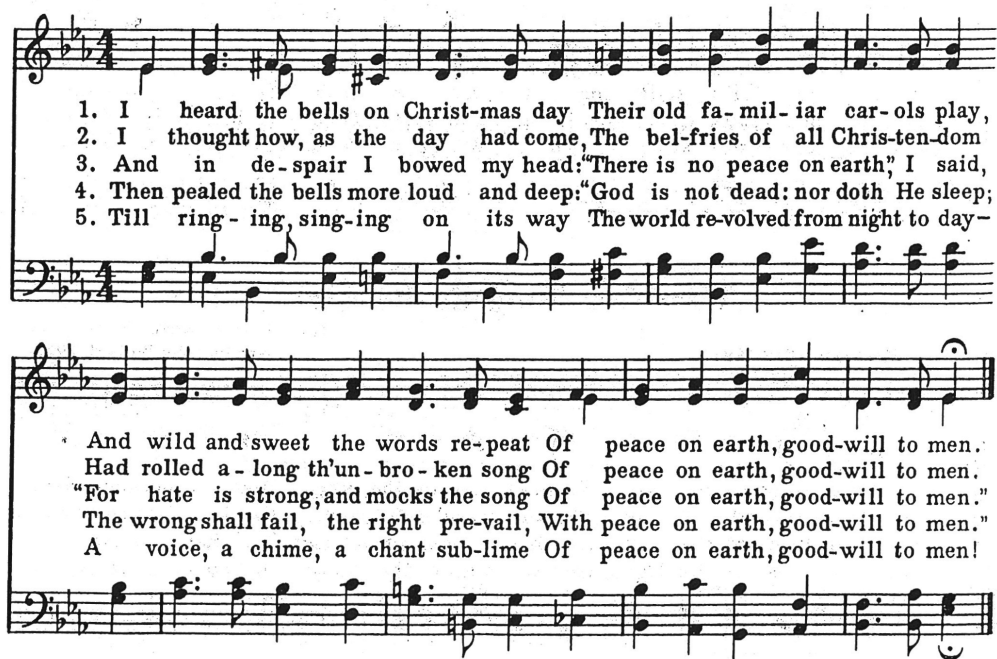
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I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, 1807-1882

WALTHAM

J. BAPTISTE CALKIN, 1827-1905



1. I heard the bells on Christ-mas day Their old fa-mil-iar car-ols play,
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all Chris-ten-dom,
 3. And in de-spair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead: nor doth He sleep;
 5. Till ring-ing, sing-ing on its way The world re-volved from night to day-

* And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
 Had rolled a-long th'un-bro-ken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
 "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men."
 The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."
 A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Blood Drive Coming Up!

Just a reminder of the Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Savannah Country Day School in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 29.

Note that your donation will be screened for Covid-19 antibodies, and you can get a free tee shirt! To sign up, go to RedCrossBlood.org and in the box next to "Make Your Appointment" type SCDS.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Traditional Polish Carol
Third verse Michael Lining

G D G C D G

1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for His bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
3. He has ris - en! Sins for - giv - en! Made a way for us has He.

5 D G D G D G C D G

Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.
Con - quered death and raised vic - tor - ious, When He shed His blood for me.

10 G/B C A7 D B7 Em C D

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:
The dis - ci - ples gaz - ing up - ward, An - gels com - ing down to tell them,

15 % third time D.S.al Fine

G C B7 Em Em7 C G C D D7 G

Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Christ the Babe was born for you. Christ the Babe was born for you.
He will come to earth a - gain! He will come to earth a - gain!
D.S. Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Who Is He in Yonder Stall?

Benjamin R. Hanby

A^b A^b D^b A^b/E^b B^b7/F E^b

1. Who is He in yon-der stall, At whose feet the shep-herds fall?
 2. Who is He the peo-ple bless For His words of gen-tle-ness?
 3. Who is He that stands and weeps At the grave where Laz-'rus sleeps?
 4. Lo! at mid-night, who is He Prays in dark Geth-sem-a-ne?
 5. Who is He that from the grave Comes to heal and help and save?

A^b A^b D^b A^b/E^b B^b7/F E^b_{sus} E^b7

Who is He in deep dis-tress, Fast-ing in the wil-der-ness?
 Who is He to whom they bring All the sick and sor-row-ing?
 Who is He the gath-'ring throug Greet with loud tri-um-phant song?
 Who is He on yon-der tree Dies in grief and ag-o-ny?
 Who is He that from His throne Rules through all the world a-lone?

A^b A^b/E^b E^b E^b E^b/A^b A^b

'Tis the Lord! Oh, won-drous sto-ry! 'Tis the Lord! The King of glo-ry!

A^b/C D^b A^b/E^b E^b7 A^b

At His feet we hum-bly fall, Crown Him! Crown Him, Lord of all!

Articles

Emmanuel Shall Come to You

by David Powlison

Hymns that endure do so for one reason. They are true. They give voice to human experience. They reveal God, and nourish our faith. They express our faith. A hymn lasts when it is true to life and true to God.

“O come, O come, Emmanuel” is lasting. It’s origins go back some 1500 years. Believers have been singing this for a long time! And we still sing it today, and sing it appropriately at Christmas. It stays fresh.

Why?

Let’s take it slow and consider the weight of the words we sing. Each stanza has a simple yet profound structure. The more carefully you ponder, the deeper it goes. Notice how the first stanza speaks:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

We begin with a cry for help: “O come, O come.” We are asking God to come in person. This cry gives voice to our greatest need. “We need you, O Savior. Be with us. Deliver us.” We need the Emmanuel whom Isaiah promises (7:14). You need him. Same for me. Same for the people we love. Left to ourselves we die—captives, sorrowing, alone, refugees. But God’s presence with us will bring life. So we call each other to join in rejoicing. He promises to come to his people.

Each of the following stanzas embodies this same basic structure. We begin with a cry for help. We call on one of the characteristics of the Messiah, as Isaiah portrays him. We express some aspect of our human struggle. We ask the Lord to intervene. We rejoice. We promise each other that he will come. It is a beautiful and significant pattern. Read and listen to the words that you sing.

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel embodies the Spirit of wisdom and understanding—Isaiah 11:2–3. We need him to guide us in the way.

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel will sprout from David’s lineage—Isaiah 11:1. We need him to deliver us from all our enemies.

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel is the dawning sun—Isaiah 9:2. We need the Light of the world to drive away all that is dark.

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel is the key who opens the door of life and shuts the door of death—Isaiah 22:22. We need that one door to open wide and that other door to firmly close.

*O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel is the Lord himself, reigning, speaking, and saving—Isaiah 33:22. We need his authority, power, words, and presence.

*O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Emmanuel rises to rule the nations; he is the hope of all peoples: Isaiah 11:10; 49:6. Divided hearts and divided peoples need him to bring us together as one.

So we say, O come, O come, Emmanuel, be with us. Our need is the same need Jesus teaches us to seek in the Lord's Prayer. The Holy Spirit is God's in-person blessing to us in response to our cry, "Lord, be with us." This same desire is spoken in the Bible's final verses: "Come, Lord Jesus." Jesus is Emmanuel. He is wisdom. He is the rod of Jesse. He is the dayspring. He is Lord. He is the key of David. He is the desire of the nations. He is the king of peace. Each name is a facet of who he is and points to a facet of how he meets us.

So the refrain after every stanza calls us to rejoice. We've interceded. We've sought help. We've seen our need. We've asked the Lord Jesus to come. Now we rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice—because he's going to do it. Emmanuel is going to come as he promised. ❖

Through the disciplined lifestyle of prayer, Jesus admitted the weakness of his—and thus our—humanity. If the Son of God needed to pray, how much more do we need to wait upon God.

Dr. Paul Tautges

Darkness and Light at Christmas

by Cecelia Bernhardt

I've always loved the Christmas season. As a child growing up in a family of 13, I treasured the time we spent together for the holiday. We did cleaning and shopping and decorating, all together; there was a constant crowd and constant activity! Dad would find a huge tree (usually over 12 feet tall) and we would decorate it on Christmas Eve. Then, we would join our church community at a packed midnight service celebrating the birth of Jesus in solemn, yet joyful, worship. Afterwards, we would host an early morning breakfast and fall into bed, only to rise at the crack of dawn to exchange gifts and laugh and sing carols again, all together. Family played a big part in celebrating Christmas for me.

Things have changed, however. While I still celebrate Jesus' birth with a mixture of joy and wonder, I am sharply reminded of who is missing. I lost my father a few years ago in the midst of a very stressful season at work. The following year, just as I began to regain a sense of normalcy, I lost my eldest brother very unexpectedly. Then last fall, as the trees lost their leaves and the sun seemed to lose its very warmth, I lost one of my sisters. These three family members have impacted me greatly: my father for his faith, hard work, and provision for our family; my brother for his knowledge of the world, current events, and culture; and my sister for her creativity, openness to new ideas, and delight in people.

But I miss them mostly as father and brother and sister, especially in this season. I miss their care and desire to help. They were always there for me and for others when needed. I miss their laughter and quick wit, fully living life, each of them loving me in their own way. I miss the chance they each gave me to enter into their worlds to care for them. Their absence leaves a dark hole in my heart that will not be filled in this world. I am grieving their loss and it is taking time to work through what that loss means to me.

So as I face this long holiday season, I experience light and darkness intermingled. In addition to my own grief, my work as a counselor often shows me more of the dark side of life. But invariably, it also gives me a blessed opportunity. As I come alongside people who are working to persevere well despite the hardships they are facing, we consider together what light there may be to guide, to illumine, to change. And that always leads us to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Isaiah prophesied his coming long ago. *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isa 9:2). *"He is the lamp for our feet, the light on our path"* (Ps 119:105).

As I grieve the separation from my family members and walk similar paths with those I counsel, my heart is stirred to remember that Jesus came into the world to bring life that was *"the light of men."* And because he walked among us, he knows the depth of every struggle, and every experience of brokenness or loss that we face. In his love for us, he overcame death and darkness so that I not only can see light—I can be light. I long to reflect that light into the lives of others, as my family has done for me.

For all this, I am so thankful. And I am hopeful—for myself, for my loved ones, and for all the people of this broken world. Though Jesus came two thousand years ago, the darkness has not, and will not, overcome his saving work. My prayer this Christmas is that you will welcome Jesus and know the blessing of his love, his light in whatever darkness you are facing, and his life that overcomes death. ❖ 9

Missionary of the Week

Coastal Jail Ministry of Georgia

Chatham County, Georgia

All,

Well. It's been a bit of a year. It is our hope and prayer that this message finds you all well and safe from COVID and from hardship. God does send us trials from time to time, and we persevere only through His grace and mercy and in His power. Even through all of this, God has been and is in control of all things.

As you know, the COVID situation in jails and prisons is a bigger issue than it is outside the jail. People are coming and going every day to work, and more people are being incarcerated and placed within the population of the jail. For this reason, back in March, the Sheriff had to postpone programs and volunteering to reduce the exposure to the people who *have* to be there—officers, Medical staff, Kitchen workers, and other administration—but also to all programs volunteers. Regrettably, this meant less foot traffic in the jail that *could* be curtailed.

I know many of you very well and others of you not as well as I would *like*, but you *all* know that we here at Coastal Jail Ministries value your time, efforts, and dedication to preaching God's Word to the lost, and we are humbled by your presence in our lives. Thank you for supporting us in multiple ways over the years and in the years to come.

As to what we've been doing:

- The Sheriff has been good enough to provide a means of teaching the Chaplain's program until we can get back to the jail in person. We've been teaching via internet on WebEx, Monday through Thursday 9 AM- 2PM, in multiple two-hours sessions. This was a test run to see how well it worked, and so far it's been great. Please, if you get a moment, call Sheriff Wilcher and thank him for the opportunity he's provided for us. He has always been a believer in the Chaplain's program and a friend to our ministry, even before he was Sheriff!
- We're able to counsel inmates from the phone and via video.
- Working with Programs, we're able to get men and women moved to the program dorms, get them Bibles, reading materials, and devotionals when they need them.
- We've worked in a homework schedule for the men's Chaplain's program where I go on Fridays and pick up their work to be graded. If our grading churches are up for it, we will be turning over that grading to them again in the near future. I will be calling our grading churches soon inquire about this.

As to our needs:

- Please be in prayer that God would lift the COVID virus so that we may all go back in to the jail and minister in person to our congregation.
- Please be in prayer for more Board members. We are always looking for more members to volunteer for once-a-month meetings and fundraising. if you know of anyone or you yourself would like to be a Board member, please contact me at this email, or at my cell (832) 341-6551.
- Please be in prayer about new supporting churches we can bring into the the Coastal Jail Ministries family. The more we have, the stronger the ministry is, the more people we can reach with the gospel.



(L to R) Chaplains Matt Coleman, Myra Mitchell, & Shaun Marksbury

Nursery December 27

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Lisa & Addisyn Rowe

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

Nursery January 3

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Cindy Wise

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Ashley Strickland, Myri Hymon

- Please be in prayer for the men and women we minister to, and for their families, especially this time of year. It's hard on them, doubly so because of COVID restrictions. Please pray that they would come to know Christ as their savior and that their lives would be fundamentally changed so that they may be of service to our King.

- Also, be in prayer for the men and women who serve our county at the Sheriff's office. They are dedicated to their jobs and doing it to serve us all. Pray that they would hold up in their and be strengthened to face any challenges they might face.

- Lastly, pray for us Chaplains. It was hard in the beginning, having your mission field "postponed," so to speak. We are so used to being face-to-face with our men and women, day in and day out, getting to know them, their struggles, and mentoring them in the Word of God. Pray that God would continue to show us grace and mercy.

Please feel free to contact me at any time about anything you may have, need, or questions you have. As soon as the Sheriff's Office know more, we will, of course let you know, but as always, we'll wait on their lead.

Again, we thank you all for your patience this year, your continued support, and for your service to us and to our shared congregation, and I pray that all of you will have a truly Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Grace and Peace,
Matt Coleman
Senior Chaplain

Bible Reading Schedule

January 2021

	1	Colossians
	2	Genesis 1-5
	3	Colossians
	4	Genesis 6-9
	5	Colossians
	6	Genesis 10-14
	7	Colossians
	8	Genesis 15-19
	9	Colossians
	10	Genesis 20-24
	11	Colossians
	12	Genesis 25-28
	13	Colossians
	14	Genesis 29-32
	15	Colossians
	16	Genesis 33-36
	17	Colossians
	18	Genesis 37-40
	19	Colossians
	20	Genesis 41-43
	21	Colossians
	22	Genesis 44-47
	23	Colossians
	24	Genesis 48-50
	25	Colossians
	26	Exodus 1-4
	27	Colossians
	28	Exodus 5-7
	29	Philippians
	30	Exodus 8-10
	31	Philippians

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This Week at FABC

Today

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: Meeting & live stream on YouTube	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship with Holstens and After Church Fellowship	6:00 p.m.

Thursday

Senior Saints' Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve Chicken Wing Cookoff	7:00 p.m.

Office Closed Thursday and Friday

Sunday School Classes & Descriptions

Adult

"Psalms"	Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt/Chris Leverett
Various Topics	Youth House: Steve Posner

Children & Students

Babies	Room 3: Kay Stanford & Sandra Bridges
Toddlers & PreK	Room 25: Emily Wise & Kamee Roberson/ Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter
K, 1st & 2nd Grade	Room 200: John & Pam Humphrey
3rd-6th Grade Boys	Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills
3rd-6th Grade Girls	Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
Youth Guys	Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion
Youth Girls	Room 208: Jessica Dimmitt

Lockup Deacons for December:

Kelly Stanford, Michael Kleinpeter

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.

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