

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FOREST CITY, NC

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025 - ELEVEN O'CLOCK



Shepherds & Joy

Three of the four candles of the Advent wreath are purple, a color we use during seasons of penitence, such as Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, we light a pink candle, called the "Shepherd's Candle." The third Sunday has traditionally been a respite from the penitential themes of Advent emphasizing instead, the joy of the coming of the Lord

Music for Meditation

Nan Thompson

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Justin Mofield

Prelude

Coventry Carol

Youth Handbells

Arranged by Cathy Moglebust

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, by by, lully lullay.

*O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day
this poor youngling, for whom we do sing by by, lully lullay?*

*Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.*

*That woe is me, poor child for thee! and ever morn and day,
for thy parting neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay*

Chiming of the Hour

James Clement

– THE CANDLE OF SHEPHERDS & JOY –

Preparation

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Alan Guffey

The Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Grayson Carson, Charles Day, Isaac Hill, Alanna Marrero

Congregational Response

Leader: In this season of longing and anticipation,
Rejoice in the Lord always!

**People: For God is with us.
The God of our salvation in whom alone we trust.**

Leader: In this season of longing and anticipation,
Rejoice in the Lord always!

**People: For God is our Father.
He draws us home by streams of living water where we
shall thirst no more.**

Leader: In this season of longing and anticipation,
Rejoice in the Lord always!

**People: For God knows our thoughts, understands our hearts,
and enables us to become the people we were meant to
be.**

Hymn 172

WINCHESTER OLD

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Ezra Etheridge

Gloria Patri (805) *A Hymn of Praise to the Trinity* GREATOREX
***Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

Children's Time Kelly Hall

Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter* Sanctuary Choir
*In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
Angels and archangels both have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim hovered in the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.
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.*

Sermon Joy in the Midst of the Fray Rev. Garin Hill
Psalm 146

Hymn of Commitment 558 BEECHER
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Offertory Prayer William Carson & Adelaide Horn

Leader: God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call.

People: In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption.

Leader: Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kingdom.

People: Bless our giving, that it may reflect Your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Offertory *Gentle Mary* Young Musicians Choir
Arrangement: Cynthia Dobrinski led by Teresa McDaniel

Benediction Rev. Garin Hill