

# 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 Moklebust

*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