

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOVER

Rev. William A. Guy

December 31, 2023

The Seventh Day of Christmastide

Prelude *Go Tell It On the Mountain* ~ arr. R. Lay

Believer's Baptism

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Prayer

***Call to Worship:**

Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Come and let us worship with great joy!

**Let us drop the things of the past
which weighed us down!**

God is about to do something new in our lives!

Let God's will become strong in our lives.

AMEN.

***Opening Hymn** *On This Day of Celebration* Insert

***Presentation of Tithes and offerings**

***Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #7**

***Offertory Prayer**

Special Music *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*
Kid's Choir

Kid's Korner

Kid's Konnection Children, ages 3 through grade 3
may leave for Kid's Konnection at this time.

100th Birthday Celebration for Emily Saunderson

Sermon Title: *I am doing a new thing.*
Scripture: Isaiah 43:18-19
Reverend William A. Guy

Altar Call

**ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS?
OR DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THIS CONGREGATION?**
Come and share your decision with the Pastor
during the Hymn of Invitation.

***Hymn of Invitation** *Softly and Tenderly* ~ Vs. 1&4 #337

***Benediction**

Postlude *An Old Christmas Carol* ~ Liszt/Nevins

**Please stand as you are able*

Visit Our Welcome Center!

Our congregation offers a variety of opportunities for worship, fellowship, growth, and service. We have programs designed for children and adults. We want you to know that you are welcome here. Stop by our Welcome Table in the church entrance and a friendly greeter will be glad to help you.

About the Message

Today's message is not just someone delivering God's Word to an audience of people. In a worship service, each person is a participant and God is the audience. Although the Pastor has prepared a message for all of us, please don't just sit back and listen ... hear it and try and determine what God might have for you today and will give you in the days to come.

About The Offering

Those of us who have committed our lives to Christ give to support God's work here in this place. If you are visiting, don't feel pressured to give. Our members and regular attenders support our ministry out of gratitude to God. This is an act of worship and thanksgiving.

How May I Join First Baptist?

The First Baptist Church of Dover has a time of invitation during each worship service. This time is provided for anyone wishing to make a commitment to accept Jesus as Lord and to follow His teachings. Others may want to serve Christ as a part of this congregation. During the invitation hymn, come to the front of the Sanctuary and share your decision with the pastor. The following are the ways in which you may join First Baptist Church of Dover.

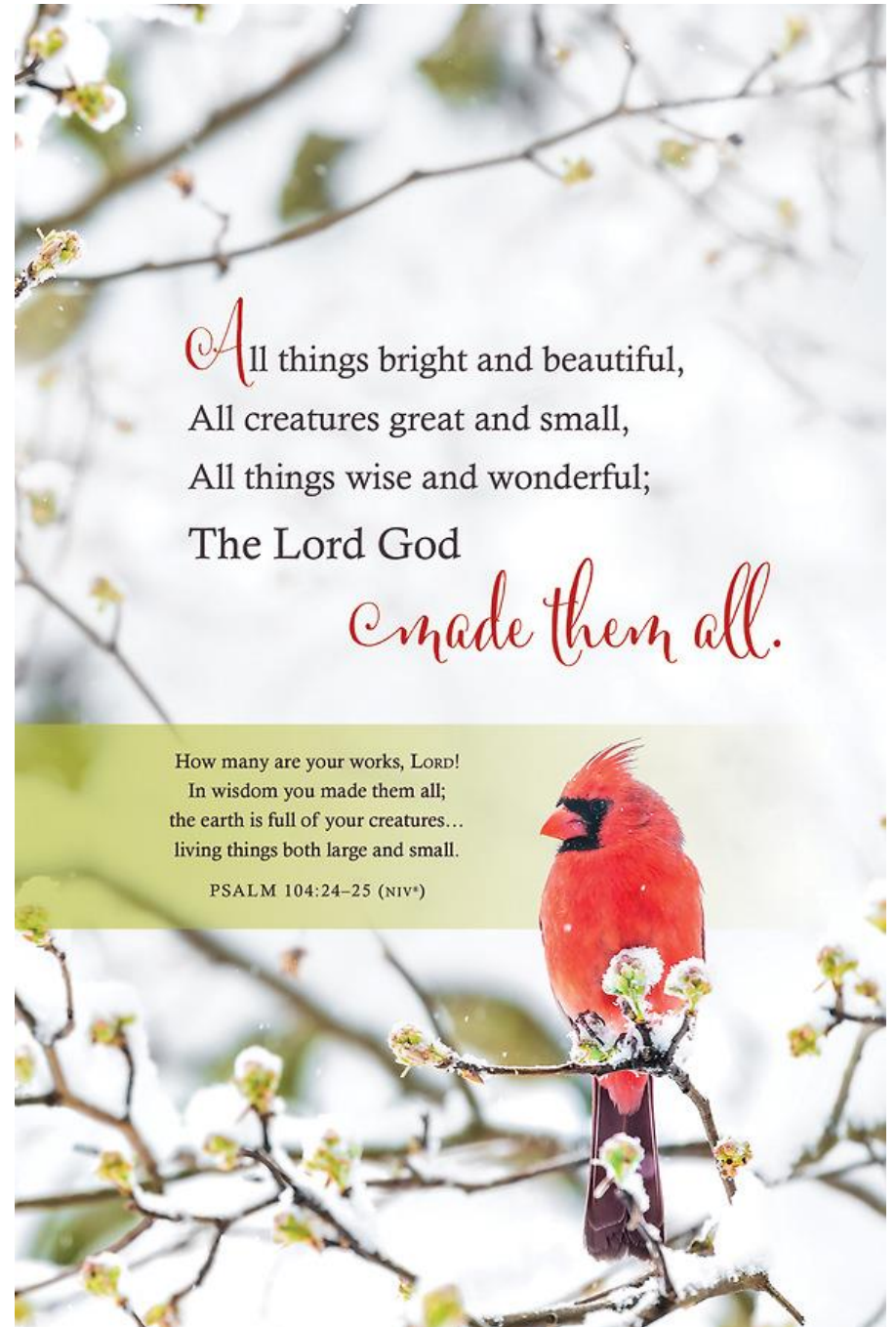
PROFESSION OF FAITH [BAPTISM]: If you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord and follow Him in baptism, you are outwardly expressing your faith in Him. We would be happy to schedule a time for your baptism.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP: As a Baptist, whose church membership is elsewhere, you are most welcome to join our fellowship. We will send for your church letter.

STATEMENT: By statement from another denomination. This is a statement of faith in Christ and that you have been baptized by immersion.

We stream our Worship Service each Sunday. It can be found on YouTube. Our YouTube channel is – First Baptist Church of Dover DE

First Baptist Church of Dover, DE
301 Walker Road
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 674-1980



All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful;
The Lord God

made them all.

How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures...
living things both large and small.

PSALM 104:24-25 (NIV*)

This Week



TODAY – 12/31:

9:30am Ladies Sunday School Class
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Fellowship Time
11:00am Worship

MONDAY – 1/1:

New Year's Day-Church Office Closed

TUESDAY – 1/2:

10:30am Bonar Circle-Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY – 1/3:

7:15pm Devotion & Prayer
Conference Call
978-990-5083
Access code 676527#

THURSDAY – 1/4:

1:00pm Clemmer Circle-Cox Parlor
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir

SATURDAY – 1/6:

10:00am Reed Circle-Library

SUNDAY – 1/7:

9:30am Sunday School Classes
10:30am Fellowship Time
11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023

Worship Attendance: 138
Offering: \$2,735
RMMO Offering: \$ 626



FLOWERS TODAY are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the 100th Birthday today of Emily Saunderson from her church family, with love.

REMINDER: Annual reports are due **no later than January 10th**. Please email the report(s) in a Word document to the secretary. Thank you.

Please be sure to pick up your 2024 Offering Envelopes on the table in the Narthex. If you don't receive a box and want one, please see Agnes Robinson.

Hey Young People, (Grades 4-12), we are starting a new Sunday School Class just for you. Class will begin on Jan 7, 2024, @ 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall on the lower level in the Synagogue. We look forward to seeing you, come and join us.

Please give generously to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) which provides a "thank you" check to retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries or their widowed spouses who served our American Baptist family for 15 years or more. Checks should be payable to FBC and marked RMMO. Thank you! This is the last Sunday for this.

Please see the Alter Flower Order Sheet insert for flowers in 2024. Directions are on the sheet. If you have questions, see Margaret Steinhoff. Place forms in the box on the Welcome Table.



WELCOME to First Baptist Church of Dover. We are glad that you wanted to share in worship with us this morning. A very special welcome is given to guests and new residents of the community. If you are seeking a church home, please consider joining us. We are an American Baptist congregation (abcusa.org). If you want to know more about us, contact the church office at 302-674-1980 or check the website www.fbcdover.org.



LULLABY LOUNGE is offered to parents with restless children. It's located at the back of our sanctuary where you can continue to watch and listen to our worship service.



KIDS KONNECTION is a kid-friendly worship experience for children Preschool-Grade 3. Children may leave the sanctuary at the time designated in the service.

DEVOTION AND PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL is held each Wednesday evening at 7:15pm. Dial **978-990-5083** and enter the **access code – 676527 #** to participate.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is offered for all adults and children each Sunday at 9:30am. All are welcome.



PRAYER CHAIN

PRAYER CHAIN – If you have a request for the chain, please call or email the church office (674-1980) (secretary@fbcdover.org).



FELLOWSHIP TIME between Sunday School and morning Worship from 10:30am to 10:50am in the Narthex. Coffee, Tea and goodies will be available. Please **do not** take food/drink into the Sanctuary. Thank you.

SERVING TODAY

Organist: *Gene Moore*
Worship Leader: *Phil Steinhoff*
Sound Technician: *Chris Cottrell*
Aaron King
Projection: *Charity King*
Streaming: *Mark Moore*
Bethel Chang
Matthew King
Trustee of the Day: *Lorraine Leavel*

On This Day of Celebration

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D ("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,
God, we gather as your people, called to put our trust in you.
You have made the world we live in; you have worked through history.
In your plan we find our purpose, in your love, our unity.

Long ago, you sent our Savior to this world in deep despair.
In your Word made flesh you came, our life to know, our sins to bear.
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:
Yesterday, today, forever — Jesus Christ is still the same!

Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,
You have called your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.
Each new generation hears you, each must find a fresh new way
To make known the life you offer, to the people in their day.

On this day, we pause and wonder what the future years will bring,
Yet we know you clothe each flower and you make each sparrow sing.
How much more will you protect us with your guiding, caring hand!
By your Spirit, lead us boldly in the future you have planned.

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 ("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee") (MIDI)
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SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Anyone wishing to give flowers for the church worship services for the year **2024** may complete this form and mail it to the church office or place in the designated box in the Narthex. **You must fill out a separate sheet for each date you request.** *The cost for the two vases is \$50.00.*

If you have any questions, contact Margaret Steinhoff at 302-228-9301.
Your gift of flowers is a contribution to the church and is greatly needed and appreciated. FYI: Some flowers are more expensive (i.e. roses).

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Date Preferred _____

Type/Color of Flowers _____

What you would like your dedication to say _____

***You will be contacted if the date you request is already taken. Every effort will be made to give you the date requested. Please complete a separate sheet for each date requested. **Thank you!**



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Multi-Generational Women's Class

The Book of James' strong emphasis on ethical living is a refreshing and concise instruction on how Christians can live an overcoming life in community with other Christians. Please join our Multi-Generational Women's class in the Church Library on the main floor beginning January 7th as we explore God's Word for living a victorious Christian Life. We welcome you as well as need you. Exploring the Word together increases our insight of God's Word exponentially! We look forward to discovering the wisdom in the Book of James with you.

Adelle Aloï, Leader



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