

## Welcome to Aiken's First Baptist

Thank you for joining us this morning. We are glad that you are here and want you to know that you are welcome with us.

You are welcome here if you are single, married, divorced, searching, or done searching. We welcome you if you are filthy rich or dirt poor, work too much or don't work at all, are over 60 and not grown up or a teenager growing up too fast. And we extend a special welcome to all crying babies.

You are welcome here if you are just browsing, just woke up, are tired of organized religion and not sure how you found your way here, or have heavy questions that need thoughtful answers. We welcome you if you are a long-time faithful or a doubter, recovering or still addicted, inked or don't know what that means, black or white or no hablan inglés.

But above all, we welcome you if you could use a prayer right now, if you feel like rejoicing, if you're broken-hearted and need a safe space, or if you just need a place to sit in awe of all that is.

Welcome to Aiken's First Baptist Church.



## This Week

### Sunday, December 15

8:30 am - Deacons Meeting  
9:45 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - Worship: Christmas Cantata  
1:30 pm - Personnel Committee

### Wednesday, December 18

5:15 pm - Dinner  
5:30 pm - Youth Christmas Party  
6:00 pm - Children's Choirs  
6:30 pm - Adult Prayer and Bible Study  
6:45 pm - Children's Missions Groups  
7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 19

10:00 am - Prayer Quilt Ministry  
6:00 pm - Young Adult Christmas Party

### Friday, December 20

8:00 am - Vanguard: A Men's Study Group

### Sunday, December 22

9:45 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - Worship

## Missions & Donations

The ACTS collection item for December is canned complete meals. Our goal is 450 cans. So far we have collected 173 cans.

## Ministry Team

**Rev. John Carroll**  
Senior Pastor

**Zachary Derr**  
Director of Music and Worship

**Debra Haney**  
Director of Administration

**Rev. Sarah Laurence**  
Minister of Youth and Pastoral Care

**Rev. Matt Waller**  
Minister to Children and Families

**Kim Mitchell**  
Preschool Director

**Anna Derr**  
Communications Specialist/Organist

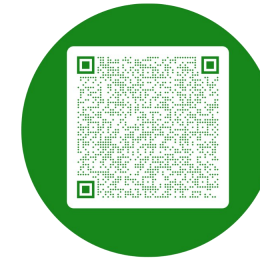
**Gail Floyd**  
Financial Secretary

**Darin Floyd**  
Building Maintenance Specialist

**LeAnne Jolley**  
Administrative Assistant



Give Here



Get our app

## Contact

 @aikensfirstbaptistchurch

 @aikensfbc

 [www.fbcaiken.org](http://www.fbcaiken.org)

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 Text: 833.228.5207

 120 Chesterfield Street N  
Aiken, South Carolina 29801



# Aiken's First Baptist Church

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

# Order of Worship

**Prelude** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child with Sheep May Safely Graze arr. Page

**Chiming of the Trinity**  
*Entering worship, we step into a time that is not ours, but God's.*

## Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation** Sarah Laurence  
Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!  
**Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**  
Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!  
**Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**  
Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!  
**Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God.**

**\*The Advent Hymn 120** Emmanuel

**Lighting of the Joy Candle** Isaiah 35:1-10  
Karen Olsen Edwards and James Edwards

**\*Hymn 125** Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

## Psalm 96

**Pastoral Prayer** John Carroll  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Stories of Impact** John Carroll

**Offertory** Joy to the World! The Lord is Come arr. Hamby  
*You may give in a variety of ways. Your gift may be given in the plate as it is passed, online at fbcaiken.org, or through the church app.*

**\*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.**

**Blessing** John Carroll

## Moment of Fellowship

**Children's Moment** Emily Berry  
*At this time, children ages 1st Grade and below may follow our volunteers out for Children's Church.*

**Christmas Cantata** Let There Be Christmas Joseph M. Martin  
Sanctuary Choir and Wind Ensemble

**Christmas Overture and Processional**  
**O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. O Come let us adore Him. O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee; born this happy morning. Jesus, to Thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**The Advent Rose** Matt Waller, soloist

## The Divine Expectation

**Concertato on "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**  
**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth; and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray. Cast out our sin; and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. O come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

**Carols from a Quiet Manger** Erin Johnson, soloist

**Arise! (Hodie Christus natus est)**

**Bleak Midwinter's Gift**

**Let There Be Christmas** Sarah Laurence, soloist

## A Joyful Gathering of Carols

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room; and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed, a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tiding bringing: "Christ the Babe is Lord of all."**

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!" Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.**

**The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies. With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**\*Benediction** John Carroll

## \*Sung Congregational Response

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere**  
**Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.**

**Postlude** Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from arr. Bish  
"Christmas Oratorio" by Saint-Saëns

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

**Wednesday Night Menu -**  
Sub sandwiches  
Chips  
Cookies and brownies

**Important Reminder -**  
All Year End Gifts for 2024 must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31.

**Youth Christmas Party -**  
Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 pm.

**Young Adult Christmas Party -**  
Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 pm.

**Christmas Eve Service -**  
December 24 at 5:00 pm.

**Courageous Conversations: Justice and the Bible -**  
Join us for meaningful conversations every Sunday in January at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Special guest, Rev. Bill Stanfield, will join us January 12 and 19 to strengthen our scriptural and practical background on this important subject.

*We welcome the following guest instrumentalists today: Erin Montgomery, flute; Jay Rising, clarinet; Todd Jenkins, 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet; Josh Workman, 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet; Kate Jenkins, 1<sup>st</sup> trombone; Jessica Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> trombone; and Kent Hannibal, percussion.*

## Information Card

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- I am a Visitor
- Change of Information
- Add me to the Email List
- I'm interested in following Jesus and being baptized.
- I'm interested in joining the church family.
- I'm interested in learning more about our ministries and ways to serve.

### Wednesday Night Sign-Up

\_\_\_\_ Number of Adults    \_\_\_\_ Number of Kids

### Prayer Requests

\_\_\_\_ Please keep confidential among the ministers.

Please tear off and place in offering plate.