Earle Street Baptist Church

10:30 am Worship **November 29, 2026**

First Sunday of Advent

CHIMES

WELCOME Janice Hinnant

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. David Lasky

CALL TO WORSHIP The Rau Family

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent, another Christian year begins,
All: And the church begins to tell the gospel story once again.
Leader: The story begins with the birth of Jesus,
All: When people who walked in darkness were looking for the light.
Leader: In this season of Advent, we are looking for the light again.
All: Now is the time of watching and waiting.
Leader: The same Jesus who came as a baby, is coming now by His Spirit, and will come again as King of kings and Lord of lords.
All: Come, Lord Jesus; and when You come, bring us hope. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Hymn #80 *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* BAUGH

Hope, peace, joy, and love! These are gifts you bring from above.
Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of Your hope, reflected in me.

INVOCATION

* HYMN OF PRAISE #79 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

(All children, grade 5 and under, may come forward on the final stanza.)

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!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy , strife, and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Anna Kay Lord

(Following this, preschoolers, ages 3 – K5, may go to Sunday School.)

*OFFERTORY HYMN #95 BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
The hope of every nation, God's promise of salvation.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

We wait our Savior's coming, our own eternal King!
Long promised by the prophets, let heaven with praises ring.
Our hope is ever growing, God's peace to all bestowing.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

Come fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!
All lands will how before Him, their voices join to sing
Of hope and peace abounding, of joy to heaven resounding.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

Christ's is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
His rule secures our freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Hope, peace, and joy our treasure, God's love above all measure.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's word!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER Martha Newton

OFFERTORY *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* arr. David Winkler

*RESPONSE **For Thyself, best Gift Divine! To our race so freely given;** DIX
For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven.
Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 64:1-9 Gary Strickland

[1]Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before
you! [2] As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name
known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! [3] For when you did awesome
things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. [4] Since
ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who
acts on behalf of those who wait for him. [5] You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How
then can we be saved? [6] All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts
are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. [7] No
one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and
have given us over to our sins. [8] Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the
potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not
remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

John 1:1-14

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was
with God in the beginning. [3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made
that has been made. [4] In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. [5] The light shines
in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [6] There was a man sent from God whose
name was John. [7] He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all
might believe. [8] He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. [9] The true
light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. [10] He was in the world, and though
the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. [11] He came to that which was
his own, but his own did not receive him. [12] Yet to all who did receive him, to those who

believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. **14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Advent Promise* by Ruth Elaine Schram

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son.
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and bear a Son;
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father;
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Prince of Peace, the Prince of Peace.

For unto us a Child is born, a Son is given;
For unto us a Child is born, a Son is given, a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
And He shall reign on David's throne forever;
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Prince of Peace, the Prince of Peace.
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son

MESSAGE **"The Gospel According to AI"** Gary Strickland

Advent Sermon Series: *The Word Became Flesh*

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT #99 AR HYD Y NOS

View the Present Through the Promise

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.
Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.
Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing
In the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.
Let you loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving
Be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.
Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating
To the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*BENEDICTION Gary Strickland

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #705 GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

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.

*POSTLUDE *Swiss Noel* by Louis Claude D'Aquin

*Congregation please stand, if able.

Hearing devices are available upon request. Please see one of the ushers if you would like to use one.
Our worship services are live streamed via the ESBC YouTube channel. The services are also archived for future viewing on YouTube.
For an explanation of the meaning of the colors and symbols used for worship in our sanctuary, please refer to the worship guide located on the front page of the hymnal.

We welcome Nancy Smith back as our guest organist today.

Acolyte—Mary-Brooke Wells
Deacon of the Week—Martha Newton
Greeters—Margaret Kirby/Glenn Arrowood/Norma Green
Sound Technician—Eddy Leo
Video Technician—Dan Boehm
Ushers—Glenn Arrowood, Mary Arrowood, Quay Farmer, Monte McKinney, Curtis Dobbins, Chuck Adams