

**The Worship of God
Sunday, December 22, 2019**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Blessing in the Unexpected

Robert McAfee Brown realized “To speak of grace, is to say that the things most worth expecting are the things that are unexpected.” According to John Killinger, “Brown saw that the greatest things that had happened to him were things he never expected, things he didn’t plan for, things that didn’t seem like blessings at the time.” This perspective of blessings in the unexpected plays a major part in our scripture today. Dear Joseph never expected to find a blessing when his plans didn’t work out for his life. How can you trust God when you walk into the unexpected?

Prelude Beverly Warren

Faces & Places of First Baptist Church

Welcome Matthew Broyles

Time of Greeting *Offering*

Congregational Call to Worship CH 244
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Lighting of the Advent Candle Aaron, Keithley, Hayes &
Collins Roan

Celebration of Baptism *Charlotte Darby* Phil Christopher

Morning Prayer Matthew Broyles

Meditation Renara Frizzell

Songs of Our Worship *O Little Town of Bethlehem* CH 250
Away in a Manger CH 262

God’s Eternal Word for Us Today *Matthew 1:18-25* Nadell Mangum
Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Offertory Prayer Kathy Merchant

Offertory *Messiah* Sanctuary Choir
Ronda Haire, soloist

Message from God’s Word *God Really With Us... In Everything* Phil Christopher

Invitation *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* CH 591

Continuing Acts of Worship Mike Greenfield

Recognition of Decisions C. V. Blake

Benediction *Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come* CH 270

Postlude Beverly Warren

Instrumentalist: Beverly Warren, pianist

The flowers today are given in honor of the 56th wedding anniversary of Jerry & Ruth Ann Kiser by David, Jennifer, Haley, and Jayton Stuckey along with Roy, Gina, Derek, Shelby, Drew, and Luke Kiser.