



**HOPE CENTER**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ABILENE

***A Service of Hope and Dedication***

***The First Sunday of Advent***

***December 3, 2023***

# A Service of Hope and Dedication

## The Hope that Gathers Us

Prelude Overture on “*Adeste Fideles*” Celebration Orchestra

Welcome Matthew Broyles

We gather today because we are a people who hope  
**We hope because we know Jesus**  
We hope for a better future for our children  
**Jesus said to bring the children to Him**  
We hope for a bright future for our church  
**We are the bride of Christ, who is the Lord of all creation**  
We hope for a bright future for our community  
**We want to be a city planted on a hill, a light to those around us**  
We hope for a path of peace for our world  
**We worship the Light of the World, in whom there is no darkness**  
We gather today because we are a people who know hope  
**We anticipate the continual advent of the one who has come, is here, and will come**  
Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up to the Lord**

Time of Greeting *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Lighting of the Advent Candle Marcus and Kristian Spencer

## The Hope of the Future

Parade of Nations *Carry the Light* Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir  
Children’s Choirs

The Word of God *Isaiah 60:1-5, 19-22* Cathryn Darby and Cason McAdams

Children’s Time and Hanging of the Chrismons Becky Tucker

Call to Worship *O Come O Come Emmanuel* CH 245

And A Little Child Shall Lead Them GLO Video

A Litany of Gratitude and Dedication for God’s Little Ones Allie Tobin and Kristian Spencer

For 54 years, we have been dedicated to the idea that Jesus was serious  
**That He meant what He said about letting the children come to Him**  
For over five decades, we have sought to be a conduit of that love  
**To care for children as we share love with them and for them**  
We are thankful for our history  
**For the dream fulfilled from so long ago**

We are thankful for our present  
**We are blessed with a staff who care for God's children**  
We are thankful for God's provision  
**God has always given us what we have needed to fulfill our calling**  
And even as we give thanks for what has come before  
**We anticipate what God will do next**  
We pray blessings over the new classrooms that will be used  
**That children will learn of love and kindness**  
We pray blessings over the new chapel space  
**That God's word would be written on the hearts of all who enter there**  
We pray blessings over new play spaces  
**That the smiles and joy of children would be pleasing to God**  
And again, we say thanks  
**Thank You God for the way You have blessed God's Little Ones**  
And we commit to a bright future  
**May You use us and our new space to care for the children of Abilene**  
We commit to prayer  
**May we never cease to pray for the children of GLO**  
We commit our resources  
**May You use our congregation to bless these children and workers**  
And we commit our time  
**May You show us the ways to help, to minister, and to continue GLO's mission**  
Lord, hear our prayer  
**God bless this new space for the children and workers who enter there**  
Let it be so, and let it be so  
**Amen**

## **The Hope for Health**

Song of Worship

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

CH 244

Care for the Whole Person

MOCE Video

A Litany of Gratitude and Dedication  
for the Ministry of Counseling and Enrichment

Mike Stedham and Steve Queen

God has always met the needs of God's people  
**He gave them manna and dew in the wilderness to provide for them**  
Jesus offered healing as a part of salvation  
**Evil was exorcised and people were brought to wholeness**  
We understand our mission is also to offer wholeness as a part of God's redemption. Since 1977, we have  
understood our calling to minister to the whole person. We have been called...  
**To provide a space for guidance and help when times are troubled and**  
**To provide a resource to the community, to care for the health of people**  
We give thanks to God for the vision to establish a counseling space in Abilene  
**We are thankful for those who minister in this way**  
We give God thanks for the guidance of those who have come, those who are here, and those who will answer  
this calling  
**We are thankful for the leadership of this space**  
For those who began and those who continue. And, we are thankful that God is providing new opportunities  
**We are thankful for the expansion of this ministry**

Today, we dedicate ourselves to continue to support this work

**Until all will know a path to peace**

Today, we celebrate God's ongoing provision

**As this ministry expands in new ways**

May our hearts be tuned to Yours, O God

**To see the hurt in the world and be used to minister to it**

We commit to continuing support of the Ministry of Counseling and Enrichment

**God use us and the resources You have given us to meet the needs of the community**

May You use us, O God

**We will pray for those who minister there**

May You use us, O God

**We will pray for those who are ministered to**

May You use us, O God

**That we would continue to be a part of Your redemption plan not just for the souls, but for the entirety of people**

Let it be so, and let it be so

**Amen**

## **The Hope for Wholeness**

Song of Worship

*God of this City*

Living With Love

City Light Video

A Litany of Gratitude and Dedication for City Light

John Moore and Hillary Moore

When Jesus tells stories of God's kingdom

**He tells about the finding of lost things and lost people**

When Jesus finds His servants faithful

**He tells of cups of cold water given in His name**

We thank You, O Sustainer, That You have given us a way to be citizens of the kingdom

**By looking for the lost and offering water**

It is Your blessing God,

**That enables us to be a blessing to others**

We give You thanks for City Light

**For thousands of meals for our neighbors**

We give You thanks for our volunteers

**For thousands of hours given in service**

And we give You thanks for our staff

**Who help us all to recognize that Your image is borne by people regardless of socioeconomic status**

And, even as we give thanks for what has been,

**We give thanks for what will be**

For a new space

**That will hold more people**

For a new kitchen

**That will cook more food**

For classrooms and offices

**That will provide space to help break cycles of poverty**

And in that new space

**We commit to continuing to look for what is lost**

Within those new walls

**We commit to service in Your name**  
Upon that new foundation  
**We commit to see Your love move into all who need it**  
May You bless this new space, O God  
**Bless it and all who enter in there**  
Let it be so, and let it be so  
**Amen**

## **The Hope We Hold**

A Recognition of God's Provision		C.V. Blake
God's Eternal Word for Us	<i>Hebrews 12:1-3, 18-19, 22-24</i>	Amanda Neal
Offertory Prayer		Jordan Neal
Message in Song	<b>O Come, All Ye Faithful</b>	Sanctuary Choir
Message from God's Word	Hope for the Hungry: Carrying Light	Brandon Hudson
Invitation	<b>Shine On Us</b>	

## **The Hope We Carry Forward**

Continuing Acts of Worship		Mike Greenfield
A Prayer of Gratitude and Remembering		Phil Christopher
A Litany of Gratitude and Dedication for the Hope Center		Phil Christopher and Brandon Hudson

Today, O Redeemer, we have given thanks  
**We have given thanks for the ministries which are moving and expanding**  
And we give thanks when we remember  
**Because we know that all of this comes from You, O God**  
We are like Hannah with her child Samuel  
**Who recognized that this dream becoming reality was because of You**  
May we also be like Hannah  
**Who in that recognition, dedicated that dream to You**  
We dedicate this new space, this Hope Center, to Your Kingdom  
**May it always be about You and Your will**  
May it be used for Your purposes  
**To provide dignity for those on the fringes**  
May it be used for Your purposes  
**To give hope to those who are hopeless**  
May it be used for Your purposes  
**To care for the children who grow there**  
And may You continue to equip us  
**To give freely to support these ministries**  
May You guide us  
**To be a beacon of Your hope to Abilene**

And may You enable us  
**To be salt and light in this world**  
You are the Giver of all things  
**May our lips never cease to praise You**  
You are the One who holds us together  
**May we live in such ways that bring others to You**  
You are the Redeemer of the world  
**May we never grow tired of participating in that Redemption**  
Let it be so, and let it be so  
**Amen**

A Prayer for the Future

Brandon Hudson

Benediction to the Hope Center                      Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

*We are all invited to follow Larry and D'Anna Smith as we continue our celebration in the Hope Center.*

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Louis Peacock,  
happy 20th Christmas in Heaven with Jesus...Mom

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### Reflections

Today, we celebrate and dedicate the fruition of years of sacrificial giving and hope-filled dreams – The Hope Center. It is no mistake that we do this in the same service and time that we celebrate our tradition of Carry the Light. For the 142-year history of this church, through different buildings and staff, through trials and joys, we have believed that because our hope is in Jesus Christ we have hope to offer the world. Today we celebrate that hope as we move into our advent season focusing on different aspects of hope. As we celebrate so much today, let's ponder a few things:

- Who have been the voices of hope in your life?
- In what ways are you being called to pass hope onto others?
- How does gratitude at what God has done help us to learn to hope more fully?

I hope (pun intended, but meant) you will find hope in this season and you will share that hope with the world. May the light of Christ fill our hearts until the world cannot help but see Christ in us!

**Quote for Reflection:** Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible. – William Sloane Coffin

### Worship Leaders - Representing Ten-25

**Marcus and Kristian Spencer** – Marcus and Kristian have a daughter, Lily, and a son, Henry, due in April, 2024. Marcus began attending FBC in 1996 and is a Physician Assistant with Hendrick Medical Center's CV Surgery team. Kristian began attending FBC in 2009 and is a teacher in Wylie ISD. They are both teachers for the Ten-25/ Difference Makers class. They both have served as deacons and on various church boards and search committees, as well as taught on the youth floor and led weekly Bible studies. Kristian currently serves as the chair of the GLO board. One of their favorite memories is their wedding in December of 2016. "The church is so beautiful at Christmas, especially filled with people we love!" They came to FBC because they both felt valued, supported, and loved by church family and knew FBC was a church they wanted to serve in as well as raise their family in.

**Jordan and Amanda Neal** – Jordan and Amanda have a daughter, Adriana. Jordan has attended FBC since birth and is the Head Football Coach at McMurry University. He helped with D-NOW when he was in college and currently teaches young adult Sunday school. Amanda also works at McMurry as Program Director, Aides to Teachers / Instructor of Curriculum and Instruction. She teaches 3rd grade Sunday school and helps with J.A.M. on Wednesdays. They came to FBC because of all the ways our church serves its members and community.

## **Special Word of Thanks for the Following:**

### **Give Hope Capital Campaign Steering Committee:**

Executive Directors: Evan and Callie Harris, Hillary Moore

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Lead Gifts Directors: Paul Schnitman, Mark Edwards

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Prayer Coordinators: Louise Gray, Maura dela Cruz, Nadell Mangum

Student Coordinator: Dana Pearson

Spiritual Director: Gene Hendrix

Communication Director: Grant Vandever

Website and Social Media: Jennifer Woodard

Graphic Design and Print material: Katie Palmer

Videographer: Doug Worthington

**Hope Center Building Committee:** Larry Smith, Bob Bein, Austin Butler, Casey Curnutt, Ryan Gibson, Debbie Langford, Becky Rentz, Matt Robinson, John Weeks  
Staff Liaison: Mike Greenfield, Eric Couvion

**Ministry of Counseling Renovation:** Shelly Utley, Debbie Langford, Eric Couvion

**GLO Liaisons:** Laurie Irby, Kristian Spencer, Allie Workman Tobin

**Pastoral Staff Liaisons:** Dr. Phil Christopher, C. V. Blake, Matthew Broyles, Joe Frush, Mike Greenfield, John Moore, Candy Rains, Becky Tucker, Todd Wilson, Austen Winfrey

**Senior Pastor:** Reverend Brandon Hudson

**Give Hope Quilt:** Molly Yarger

**Hope Center Celebration Committee:** Karen Barlow, Martha Brown, Phil Christopher, Mary Christopher, Karen Dansby, Mary Davis, Linda Frizzell, Katie Palmer, Mike Greenfield, Carol Haynes, Brandon Hudson, Laurie Irby, Diane Leggett, John Moore, Steve Queen, Donna Schnitman, Kristian Spencer, Jane Todd, Candy Rains, Becky Rentz, Stephanie Stewart, Susie Vandever, Joni Wood, Beth Young

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