



*First Sunday after Christmas*

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
A SERVICE OF CAROLS & PRAYER  
DECEMBER 28, 2025**



**Crescent Hill  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

DECEMBER 28, 2025

THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
A SERVICE OF CAROLS & PRAYER

10:45 AM

*We gather to worship the Living God. In order to focus our hearts on this purpose, we ask that you silence all cell phones, alarm watches, and other electronic devices.*

CHIMING OF THE CARILLION

PRELUDE

Noël

Jean-François Dandrieu

GREETING

Bob Fox

THE WORK & WITNESS OF OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

If you are a guest at Crescent Hill, consider filling out one of our connection cards in the pew rack in front of you, or scanning the QR code on the back of your worship folder. We'll reach out to connect about our community, one that we'd love for you to be a part of.

ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to remember the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem, killed by King Herod. Their death echoes the prophecy in Jeremiah: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing consolation, because they are no more”.

**People: We remember all innocent victims today, those who suffer from tyranny and evil.**

Leader: God calls us to value life and oppose injustice. The survival of the Christ child highlights the cost of his arrival in a world of sin and power abuse. We acknowledge the lives lost to empire clinging to retain its power through oppression.

**People: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. We pray for justice, love, and peace on Earth.**

Leader: Let us come to God with sorrow, but also with hope in our strength and redeemer. Let us celebrate birth even as we acknowledge that the forces of death are still all to present in the world around us.

**All: Give us the hope of your kindom even in the not yet.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 157

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
And he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this!

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Call you one and calls you all  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save!

HYFRYDOL

*Transl. by John Mason Neale, 1855*

## \*GOSPEL LESSON: PEW BIBLE, 2

Matthew 2:13-23

Valorie Horn

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*HYMN OF CHRISTMAS 159

Sing we now of Christmas,  
Noel, sing we here!  
Hear our grateful praises  
to the babe so dear.

### **Refrain:**

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!  
  
Angels called to shepherds,  
"Leave your flocks at rest,  
journey forth to Bethlehem,  
find the lambkin blest." **Refrain**

## *Sing We Now of Christmas*

NOEL NOUVELET

In Bethlehem they found him;  
Joseph and Mary mild,  
seated by the manger,  
watching the holy child. **Refrain**

From the eastern country  
came the kings afar,  
bearing gifts to Bethlehem  
guided by a star. **Refrain**

Gold and myrrh they took there,  
gifts of greatest price;  
there was ne'er a place on earth  
so like paradise. **Refrain**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## OFFERING OF OURSELVES, OUR TITHES, & OUR GIFTS

*Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of Crescent Hill Baptist Church.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

### *I Wonder as I Wander*

John Jacob Niles

Ben Ragsdell, baritone; Louie Bailey, piano

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall  
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all,  
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,  
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

\*CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

*Glory Be to God on High*

GLORIA

Glory be to God on high, to our Savior Christ the Son, to the Spirit, ever near.

Sing we to the Three-in-One: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.

*Louie Bailey, 1994*

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

*Herods of Christmas*

Bob Fox

\*INVITATION TO RESPOND

Crescent Hill is a welcoming community of faith. We invite those seeking baptism for the first time, or those seeking to join our fellowship from another faith community to come forward during the Hymn of Response. Rather than a place of guilt, we invite you to come forward to claim your identity as the beloved of God united in beloved community. Welcome home.

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

*John W. Work, 1907*

BENEDICTION

Bob Fox

POSTLUDE

*Morning Reflections*

Louie Bailey

\*Worshipers are invited to rise, in body or spirit.

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- We invite those who wish to be baptized or join the church to share that decision with the church near the conclusion of worship. However, if you would prefer to explore baptism or church membership privately, the ministers would be glad to discuss those decisions with you following worship.