

***Hymn 151** Go Tell it on the Mountain (John W. Work) Spiritual

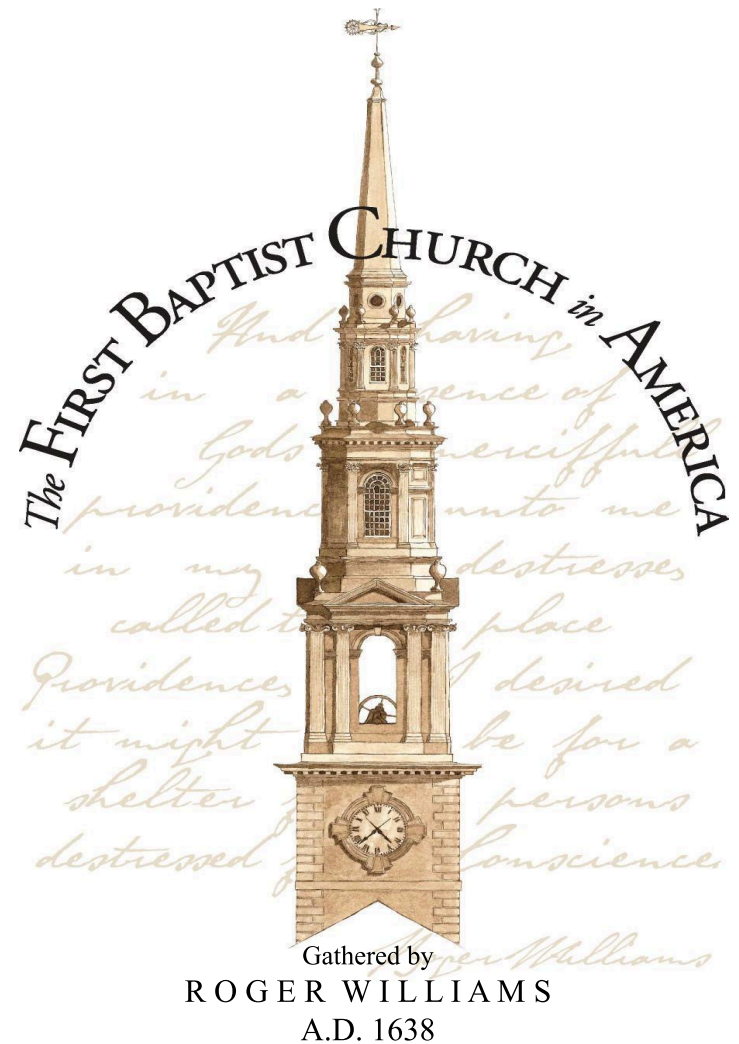
*If you feel so moved on hearing this morning's spiritual
whose author, an enslaved person denied his/her identity, remains
unknown to us, feel free to pay it forward by placing a
royalty donation in the beautiful Tzedakah box
that was made by our children at the back of the church.
Monies collected go to Stages of Freedom, to further their work
In building community and advancing racial equality
through arts, education, and swim empowerment for youth.*

***Commission and Blessing**

Postlude Toccata in F Dietrich Buxtehude

We welcome Rev. Kelsey Stillwell to the pulpit this morning while Pastor Jamie is away. Rev. Kelsey Stillwell is a Kentucky native and a graduate of the McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta. She has served in churches in Georgia, most recently at the First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon as the Associate Pastor of Youth and Missions.

She now lives in Worcester, MA where her fiance serves as a pastor. Sharing a meal with friends, spending time with the cutest dog and cat, and playing with clay are ways she feels most connected to the Divine.



PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Sunday, December 08, 2024
Eleven O'clock AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Preludes on “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” (1912)
“The Shepherds and the Angels” (Luke 2: 1-14) Rued Langgaard

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: The Reign of God draws near:
The prophet calls us to change our lives!

**All: Prepare the way for the Lord:
A just and peaceful path!**

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:
For the glory of God!

Announcements

Greeting One Another

Kindling the Second Advent Light Karen Bell & Cheryl Dexter

***Hymn 134 The King of Glory Comes** *Promised One*

***Responsive Invocation**

One: As streets fill with shoppers
Bright lights and tempting offers
Christmas songs and children’s laughter,
You lead us along a different path
To a desert river and a Prophetic voice.

**All: A call to repentance
A call to service
A call to immerse ourselves
In living water that will never run dry.**

One: A call to prepare a way in our own lives
For the Savior of the world to enter in,

**All: That we might know the touch of tender mercy
And rest in your forgiving love.
For your faithful prophets
And your Living Word
We give you thanks. Amen.**

~adapted from John Birch

Scripture Luke 3:1-6

Anthem Prepare the Way, O Zion⁺ Swedish Psalmbook, 1697

Prayers of the People

Abba God, 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. Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

Children’s Message

Hymn 136 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry *Puer nobis*

Preaching *A Word in the Wilderness* Rev. Kelsey Stillwell

Offertory Comfort Now My People *Genevan Psalter*, 1551
Harmonization by Claude Goudimel, 1565
[*The text may be found in the Hymnal 132*]

Doxology *Old Hundredth*
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

Offertory Prayer