

# you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

## The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2009

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

### Gathering

#### Greeting

John Hewett

*The Lord be with you.*

*And also with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*

*We lift them to the Lord.*

#### Organ Voluntary

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

by J. Brahms

#### Call to Worship

Sara Spahr Stubbs

#### + Hymn 135

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

HYFRYDOL

#### + Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Members of the Youth Group

*Holy One, we light these candles, a flicker of starlight,  
cradled in a forever circle of green,  
a sign of belonging, of growth,  
of possibility, of awe and wonder.  
May they be a reminder of your divine spark,  
kindling new beginnings within us.*

**Joy be born among us.**

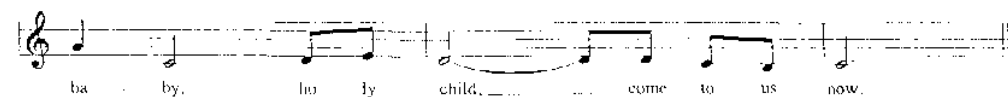
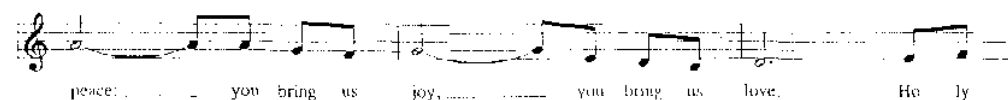
*We wait in hope, peace and joy with all your people through the ages  
and into tomorrow.*

**Amen.**

#### + Response

*"Holy Baby, Holy Child"*

by Lynn Hurt



Preschoolers are dismissed for Extended Session after a prayer with Dr. Hewett

## The Word

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 1:39-46a

John Hewett

Canticle: "*Magnificat in G*"

by Charles Villiers Stanford

sung by the Chancel Choir; Sarah Poindexter, soloist

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden,  
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and Holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm,  
he hath scattered the proud in the imaginations of their hearts,  
he hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel.  
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed forever.  
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.*

Sermon

"*Christmas Is a Verb: Believe*"

John Hewett

Canticle: "*Gospel Magnificat*"

by Robert Ray

sung by the Chancel Choir; Jessica Bachelder, soloist

*My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded the low estate of his humble servant.  
All generations shall call me the blessed one.  
For the Lord Almighty has really done great things for me, and Holy is his Name.  
He has shown mercy on them that fear him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm and he scattered the proud in their conceit, and I'm glad.  
He put the mighty down from their seat, and then he exalted the humble, the meek, and the lowly.  
He filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty-handed.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he remembered his promise of mercy.  
The promise he made to our father, to Abraham and his children forever.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## Responding

+ Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

+ Words of Assurance

*May God's ever abiding presence  
kindle the embers of sacred care and compassion  
deep within us as we move to the rhythm of hopeful joy and wonder.  
Thanks be to God.*

+ The Peace

John Hewett

*The peace of the Lord be with you.  
And also with you.*

## Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

### + Hymn 143

*"For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed"*

alternate tune: CAROL

First Baptist Church of Monroe welcomes all persons to participate in the full range of our services, programs, ministries and mission activities. Membership is open to anyone professing faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Persons may offer themselves as candidates for membership by profession of faith and baptism, by statement of previous conversion and baptism, or by transfer of membership from another church. Membership may be requested in writing or during regular worship services. If you wish to present yourself for membership today, come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and our minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

### + Offertory Prayer

Ray Casner

*All loose change received in December will benefit Union County's United Family Service's Tree House program, a child advocacy center that opened in 2005. Please give as you are able.*

### Offertory

*"What Child"*

by Paul Lohman

The Chancel Choir

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!  
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!  
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

William Chatterton Dix, 19<sup>th</sup> century

### + Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL

Please rise as the deacons pass your pew in returning the offering to the Chancel

*To you, O Christ, all glory be, whose advent sets your people free;  
Whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore;  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Sending

### Canticle: "Nunc Dimittis in G"

by Charles Villiers Stanford

sung by the Chancel Choir; Seth Joyner, soloist

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
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.*

### + Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

*"Improvisation on 'Of the Father's Love Begotten'"*

+ Those who are able may stand

Personal Listening Devices are available for worship. Request one from an usher.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS

~ All worshipers are encouraged to complete the Attendance Register located at the end of each pew. ~

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Audio recordings of sermons are now available on our website, [www.monroefirstbaptist.org](http://www.monroefirstbaptist.org)

Assisting in today's ministry of worship are:

*John H. Hewett, Senior Minister*

*Paul M. Sims, Minister*

*Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister*

*Timothy Bellflowers, Organist*

*The Chancel Choir*

*Lindsay Harris, Drums*

*Taylor Vancil, Bass*

*Ray Casner, Deacon*

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

*Christina Kale and Robin Haas*

## **Service for the Bereaved**

The annual Community Service for the Bereaved will be held in our Sanctuary today at 3:00 p.m., featuring lessons and carols and homily by Dr. Hewett. A coffee hour will follow in the Multipurpose Room.

## **Carol Sing**

Join us around the piano in the Multipurpose Room on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. as we celebrate Christmas by raising our voices in an old-fashioned carol sing.

## **Global Missions Post Office**

Instead of placing a stamp on a Christmas card to another FBC member, bring your cards to the Gathering Area and place them in the Global Missions Post Office. Cost is just \$.25 per card, which will go to the Global Missions Offering being received in December. The cards will be sorted by family and may be picked up at the Post Office as well. Cards for FBC members who are in nursing homes will be delivered to them before Christmas. The Post Office will be staffed each Wednesday and Sunday through Christmas and will also be accessible during church business hours. The Global Missions Post Office is being sponsored by the Youth Group of FBC.

## **Chili Cook-Off**

For the Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, January 6, we will have our third annual Chili Cook-Off. Prizes will be awarded in several different categories. If you would like to prepare a pot of chili for the contest, sign up in your Bible Fellowship Class, on Wednesday evening, or call the church office.