

# you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

by Wilbur Held

#### Call to Worship

John Hewett, Paul Sims, Sara Spahr Stubbs

#### + Hymn 173

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

ADESTE FIDELES

#### + Lighting of the Candle of Love

John and Sandra Whitley

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

**God's love, prepare us to be your love to others.**

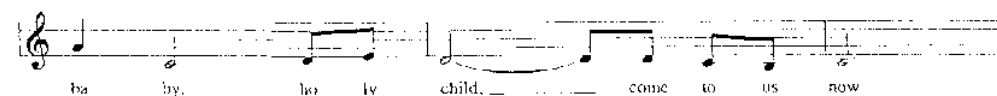
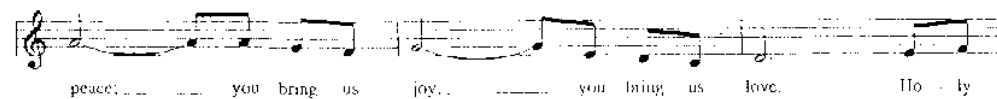
*Love be born among us.*

**We wait in hope, peace, joy,  
and love 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 Hebrew Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Andi Stevenson

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

Anthem

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

setting by Gustav Holst

The Chancel Choir

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,*

*Lord of lords, in human vesture in the Body and the Blood*

*He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way*

*As the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day*

*That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,*

*Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia Lord most High. Amen.*

4<sup>th</sup> century Greek hymn

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 3:7-18

John Hewett

*The Gospel of our Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

+ Hymn

*"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,*

*Calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:*

*"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.*

*Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control."*

*"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.*

*Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.*

*Soon the Lord will come in pow'r, burning clean the threshing floor:*

*Then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."*

*With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,*

*And his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.*

*So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,*

*Till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.*

– Carl Daw, 20<sup>th</sup> century

Sermon

*"Christmas Is a Verb: Change"*

John Hewett

## Responding

+ Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

+ Words of Assurance

*Rejoice in God always.  
Again, I say, rejoice. For God is near.  
And the peace of God, which is beyond understanding,  
will keep you centered in Christ always  
and enable you to serve the world so loved by God.  
Thanks be to God.*

+ The Peace

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

John Hewett

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

+ Hymn 152

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

GLORIA

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

*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.*

Gary Jewell

Offertory

*"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

setting by Cynthia Dobrinski

The Chancel Ringers

Prayers of the People

John Hewett

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

+ Advent Doxology

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.*

VENI EMMANUEL

**Sending**

+ Commission

*We have heard the good news of God's realm  
where all have enough, no one lives in fear,  
and peace and justice guide each heart.  
Let us go now to be people of good news!*

Sara Spahr Stubbs

+ Hymn 157

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

IN DULCI JUBILO

+ Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

*"Variations on 'Adeste Fideles'"*

arranged by Marcel Dupre

+ 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 Belflowers, Organist*

*The Chancel Choir*

*The Chancel Ringers*

*Gary Jewell, Deacon*

*Andi Stevenson, Reader*

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

*Christina Kale and Robin Haas, Diane Whitley, and Mary Nash*



Join us for Christmas Eve worship at 6:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Featuring Lighting of the CHRIST Candle • Lessons & Carols • Homily by Dr. Hewett • Holy Communion

Child care provided for the 6:00 p.m. service