

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2009

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

Gathering

Carols

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.*

*See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Greeting and Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

John Hewett

+ Hymn 146

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

ANTIOCH

+ Lighting of the Christ Candle

What brings you here today?

*Hope that fosters faith,
Peace that passes understanding,
Joy deeper than happiness,
Love that brings us to God.*

How can this be?

It is of God.

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called*

*‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.’*

***Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.”***

*We light the Christ candle to symbolize the majesty and glory of Jesus,
who was born as we all are born, but who died as no other,
becoming Savior for all.*

+ Response

***Though an infant now we view him he will share his Father’s throne,
Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.***

REGENT SQUARE

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

The Word

The First Lesson

Colossians 3:12-17

Paul Sims

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

REGENT SQUARE

***Praise God in the highest heaven, sun and moon and stars in space;
Sing, ye angels, of God’s goodness; tell, ye ordered skies, God’s grace.
Alleluia, alleluia! Who but God your course can trace?***

***All the earth will shout God’s praises, mountain peaks and ocean floor;
Wind and fire and beast and forest, hill and desert, vale and shore.
Alleluia, alleluia! Honor God whom you adore.***

***Rise, O child of God, in wonder at creation’s majesty;
Young and old, God’s glory claiming, praise the Lord in unity.
Alleluia, alleluia! Now and for eternity.***

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:41-52

John Hewett

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Christmas Is a Verb: Treasure”

John Hewett

Solo

“Mary Did You Know?”

setting by Jack Schroeder

Jim Stubbs, baritone; Sara Spahr Stubbs, piano

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?

Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’s perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you’re holding is the great “I AM!”

– Mark Lowery, 20th century

Responding

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

+ Hymn 150

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

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

Nancy Thomas

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.

Organ Offertory

“Quem Pastores (Shepherds Came)”

by Helmut Walcha

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.

+ Doxology for Christmas

REGENT SQUARE

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

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to th’ eternal, Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King! Amen.

Sending

+ The Peace

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

John Hewett

+ Response

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."*

– Charles Wesley, 18th century

MENDELSSOHN

+ Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

"Quem Pastores"

by Healey Willan

+ 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 CDs of our worship services are available through the church office.

Audio recordings of sermons are now available on our website, www.monroefirstbaptist.org

Assisting in today's ministry of worship are:

John H. Hewett, Senior Minister

Paul M. Sims, Minister

Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister

Joyce Helms, Organist

Nancy Thomas, Deacon

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

Christina Kale, Robin Haas, Tom Coffey

The church offices will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Friday of this week

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

