

# **you will be my witnesses**

-- (Acts 1:8)

First Baptist Church at Worship

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

December 6, 2009

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

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## **Gathering**

Greeting

Paul Sims

*The Lord be with you.*

*And also with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Introit

*"Come Now, Savior of the Nations"*

by Michael Burkhardt

The Choral Scholars

*Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

*Savior of the nations, come.*

*Come now, O God of love, make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

*Savior of the nations, come,*

*Promised One, make here your home!*

*Marvel now, O heaven and earth,*

*That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

Call to Worship

Katie Humphrey, Zack Morris, Chuck Zuloovitz

+ Hymn 146

*"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"*

ANTIOCH

+ Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Rebecca, Peter and Jimmy Kerley

*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.*

**Peace be born among us.**

*We wait in hope and peace with all your people through the ages*

*and into tomorrow.*

**Amen.**

+ Response

*"Holy Baby, Holy Child"*

by Lynn Hurt

Ho ly ha by, ho - ly child, we a  
wait your com ing now. You bring us hope, you bring us  
peace; you bring us joy, you bring us love. Ho - ly  
ha by, ho ly child, come to us now.

Preschoolers are dismissed for Extended Session after a brief time with Mr. David

**The Word**

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4

Joel Myers

*The word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

Canticle — *"Song of Zechariah"*

FOREST GREEN

please see insert: *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 3:1-6

David Mosely

*The Gospel of our Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

*"Christmas Is a Verb: Prepare"*

Sara Spahr Stubbs

**Responding**

+ Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

+ Words of Assurance

*Take heart, for we can be sure of this one thing:  
the One who began the work of transformation and renewal within us  
is loving and faithful and will bring it to completion.  
Therefore, with confidence, we say,  
Thanks be to God!*

## I The Peace

*The peace of the Lord be with you.*

*And also with you.*

## The Celebration of Communion

*The Lord be with you.*

*And also with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*

*We lift them to the Lord.*

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

## Passing the Bread

*"Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God"*

by G. F. Handel

The Chancel Choir

*Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come.*

*Thy truth unseal. Thy love reveal.*

*Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to thee.*

*Come in thy might. Send forth thy light.*

*Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to thee.*

*For thee we long. Hear thou our prayer.*

*Lord, hear thou in mercy our prayer to thee.*

*To thee be glory now and evermore.*

## Sharing the Cup

## Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

+ Hymn 136

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

PUER NOBIS

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

Babs Simpson

*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

*"Zion, at Thy Shining Gates"*

by K. Lee Scott

The Chancel Choir

*Zion, at thy shining gates, lo, the King of Glory waits;*

*Haste thy monarch now to greet, strew thy palms before his feet.*

*Christ, for thee their triple light, faith and hope and love unite;*

*This the beacon we display to proclaim thine advent day.*

*Come and give us peace within, loose us from the bands of sin.*

*Take away the galling weight laid on us by greed and hate.*

*Give us grace thy yoke to wear, give us strength thy cross to bear,*

*Make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord.*

*So when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men,*

*We with all thy saints shall sing alleluias to our King!*

- Benjamin Kenneddy, 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**

+ Commission and Blessing

Sara Spahr Stubbs

*Renewed by the vision of God's way  
and refreshed by the companionship of community,  
we take up the call to go in a new direction.*

*We will live the inclusive love of God,*

*gift all with the peace of Christ,*

*and do the good work of the Spirit.*

*Truly you are the people of God!*

*Amen.*

Organ Postlude

+ 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:

*Paul M. Sims, Minister*

*Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister*

*Timothy Belflowers, Organist*

*The Chancel Choir*

*David Mosely, Ministry Intern*

*The Choral Scholars*

*Babs Simpson, Deacon*

*Joel Myers, Reader*

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

*Christina Kale, Robin Haas, Aileen Sowder and Brenda Lowery*