

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

February 21, 2010

First Sunday of Lent

Ten Forty-five in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting

John Hewett

Opening Sentence (Unison)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

— John 1:8, 9

Organ Voluntary

Call to Worship

Ken Murray

Sisters and brothers, Lenten pilgrims, together we embark on a wilderness journey.

Pilgrims on a road of awe and wonder.

We journey through places of solitude, questions, reflection.

Pilgrims on a road to self-discovery and learning.

We journey through times of alienation, hunger, thirst.

Pilgrims on a road to oasis and refreshment.

We journey through struggles born of circumstance or choice.

Pilgrims on the road to acceptance and healing.

We journey through the hills and valleys of faithful living.

Pilgrims on a road to compassion and liberation.

We make this journey together — side-by-side — moving with Christ to the beat of God's heart.

Pilgrims on the road to risen life.

+ Hymn

ODE TO JOY

To a journey God has called us, to a life of love and hope;

In the light and in the shadow, God is with us as we go.

Faith that grows with each new challenge, trust that leads through paths unknown,

We, as pilgrims, walk together in the journey to our home.

For the strength of faithful witness lived through days of joy and tears;

And the gift of grace sufficient for the ever-flowing years;

For the richness of Your mercy to Thee, Lord, we give You praise.

May our lives reflect Your glory 'til the close of all our days.

+ Prayer of Confession “Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake”

by Richard Farrant

sung by the Chancel Choir

Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge,

But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives,

To decline from sin and include to virtue, that we may walk with a perfect heart before Thee now evermore.

(spoken)

John Hewett

As Lent unfolds before us, Great God, we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem.

The road is long, our sins are heavy, and our burdens hold us down.

Our transgressions are ever before us. Meet us in our weakness. Take up our sins. Ease our burdens. Carry us on the way and bring us to Jerusalem, at last.

Show us a love that is stronger than death, a love no tomb can hold. Amen.

+ Assurance of Pardon

*Calling us, leading us, guiding us, God gathers us in compassion and grace.
Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel,
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

+ The Peace

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

John Hewett

+ Gloria Patri

*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, Amen.*

GREATOREX

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

The Word

Epistle Lesson

*The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

Romans 10:8b-13

Sara Spahr Stubbs

Psalm 91

“On Eagle’s Wings”

by Michael Joncas

Sarah Poindexter, soloist

the congregation is invited to sing:

*And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Gospel Lesson

*The Gospel of our Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

Luke 4:1-13

John Hewett

Sermon

“Faith and Stupidity”

John Hewett

Responding

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

John Hewett

+ Hymn 200

“Lord, Who Throughout”

LAND OF REST

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

Harvey Whitley

All loose change received in February will benefit Loaves and Fishes of Union County, a local food bank agency that provides groceries for families in need. Please give as you are able.

Organ Offertory

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Sending

+ Commission

Sara Spahr Stubbs

Depart to your lives beyond these walls;

God will dwell with you there and bless you.

All that we have is a gift from God;

Everywhere we go, we are with our Creator.

Walk in the ways of God, rejoicing in God's goodness;

God goes before you and guides you.

We call on God's name as we scatter once more;

Our prayers will continue every day and place.

Know that Christ Jesus was raised from death for you.

Continue in faith, sharing the good news.

We rejoice in our salvation and claim our healing.

We offer renewal and hope to the world.

+ Hymn

ODE TO JOY

Go we now to be God's people, go we now our faith to live.

Help us learn from one another faith to keep, a faith to give.

Go we now on life's great journey, go we now, but not alone.

With God's people, by God's Spirit, faith leads forward, faith leads on.

+ Benediction

John Hewett

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 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

Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister

Timothy Belflowers, Organist

Kenneth C. Murray, Music Director

The Chancel Choir

Sarah Poindexter, Ministry Intern

Taylor Vancil, Ministry Intern

Harvey Whitley, Deacon

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are

Robin Haas, Christina Kale, Pam Caskey

*The sanctuary flowers are given today by the children of
Mary and Franklin Akers in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary*

Senior Minister Search Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations for the seven-member Senior Minister Search Committee. To submit a member for consideration, forward the following information in writing to the Nominating Committee: Your name, the member's name you are recommending and a brief description of the reason why you believe this member would best represent our congregation. Recommendations will be accepted until March 10, 2010 and can either be mailed to the church addressed to the Nominating Committee, placed in the church office in the box labeled "Nominating Committee" or submitted by email to nominating@monroefirstbaptist.org. We also request your prayers during this search process.

Personnel Listening Session February 28

The Personnel Committee is working with Dennis Burton, our associational director of missions, to study our church's current staffing configuration and how it supports our various ministries. As part of this process we invite you to a listening session following worship on Sunday, February 28. Lunch will be served in the Multipurpose Room immediately after the service. Cost for lunch will be \$5.00 for age 12-adults and \$2.50 for those 11 and under. Lunch is only for those attending the meeting. Following lunch, we will proceed to the sanctuary where information about the study will be circulated and you will be invited to offer your thoughts and suggestions. Child care will be provided for birth-grade 5. Make reservations for lunch and child care on the insert in today's bulletin, on Wednesday evening, or call/email the church office by 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning.

Community Lenten Service

The next Community Lenten Service will be held this coming Wednesday at Central United Methodist Church at 12:00 noon. Homily will be by Father Bradford Smith. Lunch will be served following the service.

