

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2010

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

Assemble In God's Name

Gathering Song

by Jaime Cortez

Rain down, rain down, rain down your
love on your people. Rain down, rain
down, rain down your love, God of life.

*Faithful and true is the word of our God.
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right.
Full of God's love is the earth. **REFRAIN**
God of creation, we long for your truth;
You are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,
All of our hope lies in you. **REFRAIN***

Greeting and Call to Worship

John Hewett

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

† † †

Come beloved, seekers of God's wonders...

We come to the waters – the sparkling waters.

Come beloved, seekers of God's creative spirit...

We come to the waters – the buoyant waters.

Come beloved, seekers of God's assurance...

We come to the waters – the cleansing waters.

Come beloved, seekers of God's nurture and care...

We come to the waters – the healing waters.

Come beloved, seekers of God's abiding presence...

We come to the waters – the refreshing waters.

+ Hymn 51
stanzas 1 and 2

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"

HYFRYDOL

+ Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

Creator God,

you have fashioned and formed us in your image, calling us by name:

beloved, beloved, beloved....

You fire us in a shining glaze that reflects your tender loving care,

refining us into a burnished vessel for your Spirit.

We confess that we do not always see ourselves as worthy of your attention

and that at times we fail to turn to you when you call us by name:

beloved, beloved, beloved....

We ask that you pour out your love upon us, a refreshing, cleansing rain calling out

all that is lustrous, all that is Christ in us, shining into our world.

Amen.

1 Words of Assurance

But now thus says God who created us, who formed us:

"Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

Sisters and brothers, created and formed, redeemed and called by name: beloved, beloved, beloved...

We are God's beloved, for we see God's love reflected in ourselves and in one another.

Thanks be to God.

1 The Peace

John Hewett

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

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.

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

Proclaim God's Word

The First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

John Hewett

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

setting by Hal Hopson



"Glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God!" Sing for-ev-er "Glo-ry to God!"

All on earth and all in heaven, raise to God a song on high;

Strength unmeasured, love unbounded, God alone we glorify. REFRAIN

The voice of the Lord resounds across the waters; the voice of the Lord thunders over the mighty sea.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the voice of the Lord splinters the trees of Lebanon.

The voice of the Lord strikes like lightning, the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl; the voice of the Lord strips the forest bare. REFRAIN

God of the waters, God of thunder, God's own might can make them cease;

God's own voice which tumult beckons in a gentler breath speaks peace. REFRAIN

The Second Lesson

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

Max Melton

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn "When Jesus Came to Jordan" AURELIA
*When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, but as God's Holy One.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss;
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended on him, the Holy One,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace begun.*
- Fred Pratt Green, 20th century

Sermon "Who Are You, Really?" John Hewett
You Are God's Creation

Anthem "Be Not Afraid" by Craig Courtney
The Chancel Choir

*Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you; be not afraid: I have called you by name.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you;
When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed;
You are mine, you are precious in my sight.
My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you;
When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed;
You are mine, you are precious in my sight.*
-- from Isaiah 43

Give Thanks to God

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership John Hewett

+ Hymn 612 "How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

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 Jane Hawkins

All loose change received in January will benefit our Weekday Preschool's Scholarship program -- providing assistance for parents who have recently become unemployed. Please give as you are able.

Offertory "Amazing Grace" setting by Keith McCutchen
The Chancel Choir; Zack Morris, soloist

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.
Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me on.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.*
- John Newton, 18th century

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.*

Go In God's Name

+ Commission

Sara Spahr Stubbs

*Let us depart, God's beloved,
showered in abundant blessings,
seeking the reflection of Christ in all we meet,
and being a reflection of Christ to all we greet.
Amen.*

+ Hymn

HYFRYDOL

*God, your will is still creating, calling us to life made new,
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare to do.
Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving care,
Thus new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

Jane Parker Huber, 20th century

+ 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
Paul M. Sims, Minister
Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister
Timothy Belflowers, Organist
The Chancel Choir
The Choral Scholars
Jane Hawkins, Deacon
Max Melton, Reader*

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:
Christina Kale, Robin Haas, Rebecca Mills, Derrick Lowery

*The sanctuary flowers are given by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Myers and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rossi
to the glory of God and in loving honor of Emagene Griffin for her 90th birthday*