

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2010

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

Gathering

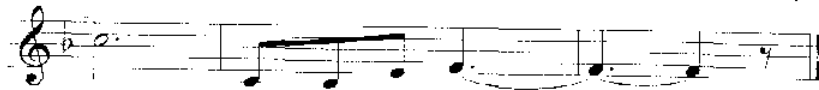
Gathering Song

"This Is the Day"

by Pablo Sosa



This is the day, this is the day, this is the day



that God has made!

Open, now open the doorways of justice, let us be glad as we pass through those gates.

There is the place where the righteous may enter, singing to God with thanksgiving and praise. REFRAIN

I will sing praises because you have heard me, offering salvation with grace upon grace,

Turning the stone that the builders rejected into the cornerstone, rock of our faith. REFRAIN

It is the Lord who has done all these wonders. I have seen marvelous, marvelous things.

This is the day that the Lord has created. Join the rejoicing as every heart sings: REFRAIN

Praise the Creator, the Christ, and the Spirit, from the beginning through worlds without end:

God who is now and who evermore shall be, glory forever, amen and amen! REFRAIN

translation by Mary Louise Bringle, 21st century

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.

† † †

The Creator of the universe bids us come to worship;

let us come in awe, reverence, and eager anticipation.

We gather in unity with other Christians,

for in Christ we are one body.

We are together to learn, to care for one another,

and to gain strength for our common ministry.

The joy of the Lord is our strength;

we lift up hands and hearts to the Rock of our salvation.

+ Hymn 41

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

ST. MICHAEL

+ Call to Confession

by Geonyong Lee

sung by the Choral Scholars

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

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile your people.

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

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile your people.

Marion Pope, 20th century

+ Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

God of all,

we have strayed from your good law,

both in what we have done, and what we have left undone.

We have cast aside your counsel, and departed from your ways.

Show us your tender mercy;

forgive us and restore us.

Heal our blindness to our sins and release us from captivity to selfish desires.

Empower us by your Spirit, that our words, thoughts, and intentions

may truly glorify you, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

+ Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

+ 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

The Word

The First Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-10

John Hewett

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

setting by Joe Cox



The heav-ens are tell-ing the glo-ry of God, the sky pro-claims all his works

The law of the Lord is perfect, the soul to revive.

The law of the Lord is trusted, making the simple wise. REFRAIN

The laws of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

Radiant are his commands, giving light to our eyes. REFRAIN

*The fear of the Lord is pure and forever endures,
Altogether righteous and altogether sure. REFRAIN
May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
Be pleasing in your sight O Lord, my Rock and Redeemer.*

The Second Lesson

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Sheila London

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Who Are You, Really?"

John Hewett

"You Are God's People"

Responding

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

John Hewett

+ Hymn 710

"We Are Called to Be God's People"

AUSTRIAN HYMN

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

Paula Lee

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

"Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls"

by Z. Randall Stroope

The Chancel Choir

When the final timber lay 'gainst the measured stones,

When the doorposts in their place overlaid with gold,

The Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house,

Also the temple of the ark of God, pure and whole.

Come dwell in Solomon's walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord,

Where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength,

For the Lord dwells within and heals their land.

Come dwell in Solomon's walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord,

Where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness, join at the feet of God.

When the people of this house kneel and humbly pray,

When they turn from dark to light and your will obey,

O Lord of heaven and Lord of earth, show favor on this house,

And heal, restore, forgive, and bless, Lord, we pray.

Come dwell in Solomon's walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord,

Where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness, join at the feet of God.

21st 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.*

Sending

+ Commission

Sara Spahr Stubbs

*Christ has blessed the members of this body
with many and diverse gifts.*

*We go forth to bear witness to the oneness of our God
and the unity of Christ's church.*

+ Hymn 709

"O Christ, the Great Foundation"

AURELIA

stanzas one and two

+ 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

Seth Joyner, Cantor

Paula Lee, Deacon

Sheila London, Reader

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

Christina Kale, Robin Haas, Judy Edwards and Robin Pittman

*The sanctuary flowers are given by Jane C. Austin and Julia C. Eggleston
to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Copple, Jr.*