

# you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

## The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2010

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

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### Gathering

#### Spiritual

*"Jesus, the Light of the World"*

setting by André Thomas

*Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.*

*Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.*

***Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.***

***Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.***

*Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;*

*Glory to the new-born king, Jesus, the Light of the world.*

***Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.***

***Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.***

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the Light of the world;*

*Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world.*

***Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.***

***Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.***

#### Greeting and Call to Worship

Sara Spahr Stubbs

*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

***We lift them to the Lord.***

† † †

*True light is entering our world through Jesus Christ.*

*Sing for joy and praise God, all people.*

***God's Word makes the winds blow and the water flow.***

***Jesus Christ is God's Word to us and for us.***

*Receive the Word, and believe the good news.*

*Know you are children of God, born of the Spirit.*

***The Word became flesh to dwell with humanity.***

***Grace and forgiveness are lavished upon us.***

*Be radiant in appreciation of God's goodness.*

*Hear the Word of God and declare it to others.*

***In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.***

***Spiritual blessings are abundantly available to us.***

#### + Hymn 174

stanzas 1, 2, 3 and 4

*"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

REGENT SQUARE

#### + Confession of Sin

*Emmanuel,*

*you have come to dwell among us,*

*full of grace and truth,*

*but we have failed to welcome you.*

***You are the light of the world,***

***but we try to hide ourselves from you.***

Paul Sims

*You are the giver of endless life  
but we have refused your gift.  
You called and claimed us as your own,  
but we failed to accept you.  
Forgive us, Lord.  
Fill us with grace upon grace  
so that we may believe in you  
and become children of God.*

+ Words of Assurance

*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.*

Sara Spahr Stubbs

+ 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 Miss Sara

**The Word**

The First Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-14

Gerhard Ungerer

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

Chorale

*“Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring”  
The Chancel Choir*

by J. S. Bach

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy Wisdom, Love, most bright,  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned.  
Striving still to Truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.*

The Second Lesson

John 1:1-5, 10-18

Susanne Ungerer

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

Sermon

*“Christmas Is a Verb: Receive”*

Sara Spahr Stubbs

**Responding**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

+ Hymn 161

*“Once in Royal David’s City”*

IRBY

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

Jean Duck

*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.*

Organ Offertory

*“Evan”*

by Garth Edmundsen

Prayers of the People

Sara Spahr Stubbs

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**

+ Commission

Paul Sims

*We have been filled with the loving presence of God’s Word,  
enabling us to shine out as reflections of God’s love.*

*Let us go forth singing the good news!*

+ Spiritual

setting by André Thomas

*Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.  
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.*

+ Benediction

Sara Spahr Stubbs

Organ Postlude

*“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”*

by Dietrich Buxtehude

+ 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*

*The Chancel Choir*

*Jean Duck, Deacon*

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

*Christina Kale, Robin Haas, Debby McBride, Fred Simpson*

## **This Wednesday, January 6**

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off***

5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room

### ***A Service of Epiphany***

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Men and women volunteers are needed to help take down Christmas decorations, remove ornaments from the Christmas trees, etc. If you can help, meet in the Sanctuary this coming Thursday morning at 9:30. Questions - contact Jane Hawkins.

