

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

First Baptist Church at Worship

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2009

Ten Forty-five O'Clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting

John Hewett

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

+ Hymn 133

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

+ Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Boyce and Darcy Duncan

Holy One, we light this candle, a flicker of starlight,

cradled in a forever circle of green,

a sign of belonging, of growth,

of possibility, of awe and wonder.

May it be a reminder of your divine spark,

kindling new beginnings within us.

Hope be born among us.

We wait in hope with all your people throughout the ages

and into tomorrow.

Amen.

+ Response

"Holy Baby, Holy Child"

by Lynn Hurt

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: Ho - ly ba - 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 ba - by, ho - ly child, come to us now.

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

The Word

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jane Austin

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

by Michael Helman

The Chancel Choir

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, come down with mighty stride;

Unlock the gates, the doors break down; unbar the way to heaven's crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, when will our hearts behold your dawn?

O Sun, arise; without your light we grope in gloom and dark of night.

Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; grim death looms fierce before our eyes.

Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand from exile to our promised land.

There shall we all our praises bring ever to you, our Savior King;

There shall we laud you and adore forever and forevermore.

— 17th century German spiritual song

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 21:25-36

John Hewett

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Christmas Is a Verb: Expect"

John Hewett

Responding

+ Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

+ Words of Assurance

*God is near and invites us all into a loving embrace
as together we journey in hope.
Thanks be to God.*

+ The Peace

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

John Hewett

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

+ Hymn 135

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

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

All loose change received in November will benefit Change for Children, an organization that helps build schools and provides supplies and necessities for children in Nairobi, Kenya. Our Girls' Mission Group has been studying this organization. Please give as you are able.

Ann Handy

Organ Offertory

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
BWV 659

by J. S. Bach

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 for Advent

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.*

VENI EMMANUEL

Sending

+ Commission

Sara Spahr Stubbs

+ Hymn 271

"Christ Is Coming! Let Creation"

CWM RHONDDA

+ Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
BWV 661

by J. S. Bach

+ 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

Ann Handy, Deacon

Jane Austin, Reader

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are:

Christina Kale, Robin Haas, and Catherine Hinson

Poinsettias

Purchase poinsettias in honor or memory of someone you love at a cost of \$8.00 each. They will fill our Sanctuary Sunday, December 20 through January 3. Forms for placing your order are available in Bible Fellowship classes and on the table in the Gathering Area. Fill out the form, attach your check, and drop it by the church office or in the offering plate during worship. A list of the donors along with who the poinsettias are in memory or honor of will be printed in the worship bulletin on December 20.

Hanging of the Green

Join us in the Sanctuary this coming Wednesday evening at 6:30 for the annual Hanging of the Green Service.

Week of Prayer Luncheon

This year's Week of Prayer Luncheon will be held this Thursday, December 3 at 12:00 noon in the Multipurpose Room. Guest speaker will be Pam Caskey, director of Union County's United Family Services. The lunch is for both women and men. Reservations can be made in your Bible Fellowship by calling the church office. Cost is a donation of your choice, which goes to missions.

Angel Tree

Names of children who attend Benton Heights Elementary School are posted on the wooden Christmas Angel Tree in the Gathering Area. We are asking groups and/or individuals to take a name from the tree and provide the gifts listed. The gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 13. Complete instructions are posted on the front of the tree. If you have questions, please contact Tom Coffey.