

First Baptist Church at Worship

November 27, 2011

Ten Forty-Five in the Morning

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering

Greeting

Gene Derryberry

*May the God of Advent be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.*

Organ Voluntary

“Savior of the Nations Come” (BWV 659)

by J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Paul Sims, Sara Spahr Stubbs

+ Hymn 133

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 5

+ Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Fred Starkey, Haley Starkey

*We light the first Advent candle to remember the prophets
who foretold the coming of Christ.*

Advent means “coming.”

We are preparing for the full coming of God’s kingdom.

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.”*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

+ Response

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

— 12th century Latin hymn

All children age 3-grade 5 are invited to exit for Children Worship & Wonder

The Word

A Reading from the Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Nolan McBride

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



*My song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;
Your faithful ways will I proclaim, and every age shall know your name.
Come, every voice, sing out your song. **REFRAIN***

*Almighty God, your lofty throne has justice for its cornerstone;
And shining bright before your face are truth and love and boundless grace.
Come, every voice, sing out your songs. **REFRAIN***

A Reading from the Gospels: John 1:1-13

Sara Spahr Stubbs

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

Sermon

"It Is Better to Light One Candle"

Gene Derryberry

Responding

+ Cantic: The Song of Zechariah

Paul Sims

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.*

*God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant, David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from the hand of all who hate us.*

*Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered the holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to
grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear,
in holiness and righteousness all our days.*

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to the people by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

— Luke 1:68-79

+ Hymn 562

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

DIX

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 one of our ministers will receive you. You are welcome here.

+ Offertory Prayer

Vickie Tuggle

All loose change received in November will benefit Operation ReachOut, a local agency that provides help in various ways to people in need in Union County. Please give as you are able.

Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

setting by Jane Marshall

The Chancel Choir

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, come now to earth and with thy people dwell,
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign, O come and show to us the light divine.
O come, O come, Emmanuel, as age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer, come to save us one and all, be born again in Bethlehem’s manger stall.
For thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high,
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair: now to us draw nigh.
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and free thy children, Israel,
Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless us all with everlasting love.*

– Natalie Sleeth, 20th century

Prayers of the People

Gene Derryberry

+ Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL

Please rise as the deacons pass your pew in returning our offerings 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!*

Sending

+ The Peace

Paul Sims

*May Advent peace be with you.
And also with you.*

+ Hymn 135

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

+ Benediction

Gene Derryberry

Organ Postlude

“Fanfare on VENI EMMANUEL”

by Adolfus Hailstork

+ *Those who are able may stand*

Personal Listening Devices are available for worship. Request one from an usher

~ All worshipers are encouraged to complete the Attendance Register located at the end of each pew ~

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net Number A-707320

Audio CDs of our worship services are available through the church office
Audio recordings of sermons are available on our website, www.monroefirstbaptist.org

Assisting in today's ministry of worship are:

D. Gene Derryberry, Intentional Interim Pastor

Paul M. Sims, Associate Minister

Sara Spahr Stubbs, Associate Minister

Timothy Belflowers, Organist

The Chancel Choir

Zack Morris, Cantor

Brandon Little, Soloist

Vickie Tuggle, Deacon

Nolan McBride, Reader

*The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in
thanksgiving for the life and witness of First Baptist Church, Monroe
by John Hewett & Andi Stevenson, Martin and Erica Hewett
and Joel Hewett*

Children Worship & Wonder Center

You are invited to an Open House immediately following worship today to celebrate the opening of the Children Worship & Wonder Center and the new Adult Media Center. Join us upstairs to view the new spaces and to share in light refreshments.

Called Church Meeting

There will be a Called Church Meeting next Sunday at **10:40 a.m.** in the sanctuary. The Nominating Committee will present nominees for the Pastor Search Committee for church approval.

Week of Prayer Luncheon

There will be a church-wide Week of Prayer Luncheon for World Missions this coming Friday at 12:00 noon in the Multipurpose Room. Cost is a donation of your choice, which will go to missions. For reservations, call or email the church office by Tuesday of this week.

Christmas Service for the Bereaved

This community-wide service will be held in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m., with a reception held afterwards in the Multipurpose Room. If you know of people who could benefit from this service, please extend them an invitation.

Mission Statement of First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Monroe exists to glorify God. We desire to be led by the Holy Spirit into the community and the world in order to share the glory and grace of God through Jesus Christ.

We are an open fellowship of free and faithful Christians, committed to a journey characterized by serious study, intentional worship, loving and compassionate fellowship and hands-on ministry.