

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

April 25, 2010

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Ten Forty-five in the Morning

Gathering

Bell Voluntary

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

setting by Sandra Eithun

The Wednesday Bell Group

Greeting

John Hewett

The Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Introit

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

setting by Carol Lynn Mizell

The Children's Choir, the Choral Scholars and the Wednesday Bell Group

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God, who filled the earth with food;

And formed us from the lowly sod and then pronounced us good.

Oh, how your wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye:

If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known;

And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from your throne.

While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care.

Where'er I go, whate'er I do, I find you present there.

— Isaac Watts, 18th century

Call to Worship

Tania Ungerer

Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us;

come alive to the Spirit's energy among us.

God awakens us and restores our souls.

Surely God's goodness and mercy are with us here.

The shepherd is calling us to new ventures.

We are invited to a higher quality of life.

We will not fear to walk through shadowed valleys.

God's love in Christ is with us everywhere.

Come to drink from springs of living water.

Gather to find comfort and blessing here.

God's salvation has come to us, Alleluia!

We will praise and honor our God forever and ever.

+ Hymn 95

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

CORONATION

+ Prayer of Praise and Adoration

John Hewett

+ 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

First Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

Sara Spahr Stubbs

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

Psalm 23

setting by Allen Pote

sung by the Choral Scholars

*The Lord is my shepherd, nothing shall I want.
My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green, leads me beside still waters.
The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life.
Leads me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of the Lord's name.
And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And in the house of my God I will live forever.*

Second Lesson

John 20:19-30

John Hewett

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

Sermon

"Dealing With Easter Doubt"

John Hewett

Responding

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

John Hewett

+ Hymn 103

"Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

HANOVER

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

Ann Handy

All loose change received in April will benefit FoodPks4Kids, which provides food and snacks on weekends for school children who might otherwise go hungry. Please give as you are able.

Offertory

“Make Our Church One Joyful Choir”

by Jonathan Crutchfield

The Chancel Choir

*Make our church one joyful choir on this glad and festive day
And by song invoke the fire that invites our hearts to pray;
Shape us, Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name.
Bend us low by song and prayer, low enough to lift the cross –
And to take the weight and bear love’s uncounted final cost.
Shape us, Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name.
Lift us up by song and prayer till the way we deal with loss
And our acts and words of care trace the pattern of your cross:
Shape us Christ, to bear your name.
Bend us, lift us, make us strong, send us out with wind and fire,
So the world may hear the song that we offer as your choir;
Shape us, Christ, to live and claim all it means to bear your name. Amen.*

– Thomas Troeger, 20th 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.

+ Easter Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Please rise as the deacons pass your pew in returning the offering to the Chancel

*O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord: Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

– The Venerable Bede, 8th century

Sending

+ The Peace

John Hewett

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

+ Hymn 596

“We’re Marching to Zion”

MARCHING TO ZION

+ Benediction

John Hewett

Organ Postlude

“Tuba Tune”

by C. S. Lang

+ 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, Minister of Worship and Teaching

Paul M. Sims, Minister

Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister

Timothy Belflowers, Organist

The Chancel Choir

The Choral Scholars

The Wednesday Handbell Group

Ann Handy, Deacon

Tania Ungerer, Reader

Preschool Extended Session workers for today are Robin Haas, Nancy Sumrow and Lauren Lowery

Coming on Wednesday Nights in May and June

Dr. Hewett will lead a study entitled ***I AM SECOND*** on Wednesdays at 6:30 during May and June. It is a movement meant to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. The authentic stories of ordinary people will provide insight into dealing with typical struggles of everyday living. These are stories that give hope to the lonely and the hurting, help from destructive lifestyles, and inspiration to the unfulfilled. You'll discover people who've tried to go it alone and failed. Find the hope, peace, and fulfillment they found through ***I AM SECOND***.

Associational Spring Session

The Union Baptist Association Spring Session will be held Tuesday, April 27, at Midway Baptist Church Family Life Center. The time of fellowship will begin at 6:00 p.m. with sandwiches, vegetable and fruit trays, chips, cookies, tea, coffee, and sodas. The session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will include special music and the sermon by Dr. John Hewett. Please join your fellow Baptist brothers and sisters in fellowship and worship. We look forward to seeing you.

M & M Night / Cake Auction

Join us this coming Wednesday evening at 6:30 as we recognize and honor the children involved in the music and missions programs this church year. Following the M & M Celebration there will be a cake auction with proceeds to benefit Relay for Life.

The "Amazing Grace" Open Community Competition

featuring

The Chancel Choir of First Baptist Church

Saturday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Central Academy of Technology and Arts

