

you will be my witnesses

-- (Acts 1:8)

July 4, 2010

Nine Thirty in the Morning

Gathering

Organ Voluntary

"Variations on 'Simple Gifts'"

by James Pethel

Greeting and Call to Worship

Paul Sims

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

† † †

Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones.

Give thanks to God's holy name.

God's anger lasts for but a moment;

God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

We will praise you, O God, and not be silent.

We will give thanks to you forever.

— from Psalm 30

+ Hymn 363

"God of the Ages"

BUNESSAN

+ Confession of Sin

Sara Spahr Stubbs

God of perfect love,

You continually bring forth life,

transforming sadness to joy,

despair to hope,

death to life.

We look to you to change our hearts,

to take away the sin that burdens us,

and to restore us to the people you would have us be.

We are weak,

but you are strong.

Our ways are flawed,

but your ways are true.

We are seldom right,

but you are never wrong.

Forgive us, redeem us, transform us,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

+ Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

+ The Peace

Paul Sims

*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

The Word

First Lesson

II Kings 5:1-14

Fred Simpson

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

Psalm 30

HOLY MANNA

*Sing to God, that all may hear you! God, whose arms can lift and save;
By thy healing touch, revive us, life restore beyond the grave.
Praise we now our sure salvation, God, the holy One above,
End the night so dimmed by anguish, with the sunrise of thy love.
Change our sorrow to rejoicing, clothe with gladness all despair;
Cause unsteady feet that stumble now to dance beneath thy care.
Dry the tears we shed in mourning, give us steadfast hope always;
Fill our hearts with expectation, and our songs with thanks and praise.*

– Michael Morgan, 20th century

Second Lesson

Galatians 6:1-16

Babs Simpson

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

Sermon

“A Simple Step”

Sara Spahr Stubbs

Responding

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Church Membership

Sara Spahr Stubbs

+ Hymn

“Rejoice! Our Loving God”

MARION

please see insert

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

Jimmy Taylor

All loose change received in July will benefit our Weekday Preschool Scholarship program. The money will be used to help pay the tuition of children whose parent or parents have lost their jobs, or simply cannot afford preschool for their child. Please give as you are able.

Offertory

“Dwell Thou in Me”

by Marian Wood Chaplin

Paul Sims

*Dwell thou in me, Lord, dwell within my very soul;
My fortress be, protecting me 'gainst angry seas of lost control;
Lord, dwell within my soul.*

*Dwell thou in me; Lord, dwell within my longing heart
That I, through thee, be conscious of thy giving love to thus impart.*

Lord, dwell within my heart and guide my steps, direct my way

To strengthen those whose paths from thee are straying.

Dwell thou in me, Lord, dwell within my restless mind;

Grant that I see the nobler deed, the simple need of being kind.

Lord, dwell within my mind and steadfastly, dwell thou in me.

– 20th century

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

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 and Blessing

Paul Sims

Go out into the world in peace:

have courage,

hold on to what is good,

return no one evil for evil;

help the suffering;

honor all;

love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

With God's help we will.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you, and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Organ Postlude

“Improvisation on ‘Praise to the Lord, the Almighty’”

+ 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:

Paul M. Sims, Minister

Sara Spahr Stubbs, Minister

Timothy D. Belflowers, Organist

Jimmy Taylor, Deacon

Fred and Babs Simpson, Readers