

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Organ Voluntary

*I Hear Thy Welcome Voice
Jesus Paid It All*

setting by Sandra Jarrell

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
And also with you.*

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Come as you are: broken and burdened.

Find healing in God's goodness.

Come as you are: gifted and beloved.

Find purpose in God's calling.

Come as you are: weary and wary.

Find comfort in God's embrace.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and worship God with gladness.*

Hymn

There Is Now a New Creation

ODE TO JOY

***There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,
Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.
Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:
Now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.***

***Come and join the celebration; come and join the happy feast;
Jesus makes the invitation to the greatest and the least.
Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.***

- David Gambrell

Confession of Sin

Paul Sims

*O Lord, compassionate beyond measure, merciful beyond belief, we have been
in the far country, lost in our sin, distant from You, seemingly beyond Your reach.*

Yet something is calling us back.

Somehow, we hope to return to You – we're just not sure about the details.

Yet before we can work out what to say, You are running to us.

Before we can voice our confession, Your arms are around us, welcoming us home.

Your forgiveness astounds us, for in Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

Assurance of Forgiveness

by Hal H. Hopson

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God.____ Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God.____ Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

Psalm 32

setting by Hal H. Hopson

God is kind and gra - cious. God heals the bro - ken spir - it.

Blest is the one whose sin is forgiv'n, and whose wrongs are put far away.

Happy is the one free of guilt, whose spirit is pure, whose words are the truth. REFRAIN

When I refused to confess all my sin, my body wasted away.

Day and night my sins were before me; my strength dried up like the summer heat. REFRAIN

Then I declared my sin to the Lord, and my heavy guilt I confessed;

God forgave all my transgressions; my sin and guilt were taken away. REFRAIN

A Reading from the Epistles

Alex Lockridge

II Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel Song

THOMPSON

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;

See on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. REFRAIN

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? REFRAIN

Oh! for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me;

Though we have sinned he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. REFRAIN

Come home,____ come home,____ ye who are wea - ry come home;____
 ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

- Will L. Thompson

A Reading from the Gospels

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

Hymn 587

stanzas 1, 2, and 3

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

NEW BRITAIN

Sermon

“Missing the Point – A Generous Perspective”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

Hymn 607

I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

*HYFRYDOL

If you desire to become a follower of Christ or if you wish to present yourself for membership today, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

Offertory Prayer

Elizabeth Reese

Offertory Anthem

Come, Thou Fount

setting by James D. Cram

The Sanctuary Choir

*Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise:
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount – I'm fixed upon it – mount of Thy redeeming love.
Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home:
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.*

- Robert Robinson

Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; 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

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Sending

Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

*Go now as ambassadors for Christ and proclaim God's message of reconciliation.
And may God welcome you into his loving arms,
may Christ Jesus be your shelter and salvation,
and may the Holy Spirit be with you, this day and every day. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Toccata in G Major

by Theodore Dubois

Carolyn Garr, cantor

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given
in honor of
Wes and Lynn Tipton's 35th wedding anniversary
by
Seth, Sarah, Wyatt, and Ella Marie Reeves
Wesley Tipton, II*

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Today's organ music is from a library of more than 1,000 digitized hymns, anthems, and solo-organ music that Gayle Majors recorded over the last several years. We are thankful for Gayle's life, for her 36-year tenure as Organist for First Baptist Church, and for this fine legacy that she has left for us.

*supplemental organ music by William P. Young, III