

First Baptist Church at Worship

March 8, 2020
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

The Second Sunday in Lent

Gathering

Gathering Song

Rain Down

by Jaime Cortez

Rain down, rain down, rain down Your love on Your people. Rain down, rain down, rain down Your love, God of life.

*Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right; full of God's love is the earth. REFRAIN
God of creation, we long for Your truth; You are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that Your love and Your peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in You. REFRAIN*

Greeting and Call to Worship

Phil Majors

Like Abraham and Sarah, God calls us out of our comfort zones to new adventures.

***In this season of discipleship,
may we respond with the trust and faith they model.***

*Like Nicodemus, we seek answers to our questions from Jesus,
especially the questions that keep us up at night.*

***In this season of questioning,
may we commit ourselves to listening to what Jesus says to us.***

*Like Paul, we affirm that our faith is based on what God does,
not on our successes or failures.*

***In this season of self-denial,
may we give up our needs to save others.***

*Like Abraham, Sarah, Nicodemus, Paul,
and all others who have been our mentors in the faith,
we would follow God faithfully,
so that our lives may witness to God's amazing love and grace.*

+Hymn 565

God of Past, Who by Your Spirit

HYFRYDOL

+Invocation

Alice Tremaine

... and reveal in us the kingdom of God in all its glory. Amen.

+Response

by Jaime Cortez



The Word

Children's Sermon

Alice Tremaine

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

setting by Hal Hopson



I look high to the hills. From where shall come my help?

My help comes only from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. REFRAIN

God will not let you fall; the guardian of your life never sleeps.

No, never sleeps, nor slumbers, the guardian of Israel true. REFRAIN

God is your help and shade, ever near to protect and guide you.

The sun shall not strike you by day; the moon shall not harm you by night. REFRAIN

A Reading from the Epistles: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Paul Sims

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

+Hymn 251

I Will Be Your God

LLANFYLLIN

A Reading from the Gospels: John 3:1-17

Phil Majors

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*The Gospel of our Lord
Thanks be to God*

Sermon “Amazing Love” Phil Majors

Responding

Confession and Assurance Paul Sims

+Hymn 349 *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

If you wish to present yourself for membership today, or if you have another decision to share, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer Nancy Rich

Loose change received in March will benefit The White Flag Ministry.

Offertory Anthem *God So Loved the World* by Thomas Keesecker

*God so loved the world, he gave his only Son.
A Son to shine in our darkness, a light to cast out despair.
He comes to take away evil, and in his light we have life!
And everyone who believes will have eternal life.
Lord, lifted up, we come to you with wonder, thanks, and praise.*

*Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love. Let all who seek you rejoice.
Deliver us from distress and lead us forth in joy.
Do not live in fear. Called to life, arise!
Turn away from sin. Oh come, Lord, enter in.*

Prayers of the People

Alice Tremaine

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 for Lent

OLD HUNDREDETH

*Praise God, the Source of life and birth.
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.
All glory to God's holy name! Amen.*

Sending

+Hymn 618

Love Lifted Me

SAFETY

+Commission and Blessing

Phil Majors

Organ Postlude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

setting by Don Hustad

+all who are able may stand
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Gayle Majors, Organist
Ann Hacker, Pianist
Carolyn Garr, cantor
Samuel Garr, clarinet

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in honor of
Casie McBurney
in celebration of her birthday
by her grandparents
Bobby and Linda McBurney*