

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Organ Voluntary

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

setting by Diane Bish

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

The Lord gives wisdom;

from God's mouth come knowledge and understanding.

We are blessed when we hunger for justice and thirst for righteousness.

Our souls are filled with God's hope and grace.

We are blessed when we grieve over the brokenness of the world,

choosing, as God does, to be with those who are weak and powerless.

We are blessed when we become God's fools,

willing to do what is right instead of what is popular.

- from Proverbs 2, Matthew 5, & I Corinthians 1

+Hymn 312

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

MARION

stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 4

+Prayer of Confession

Jeremiah Banks

*Surprising God, You have made foolish the wisdom of the world,
teaching that the meek shall inherit the earth and that heaven
belongs to those who suffer for the sake of justice.*

But we cling to the values of this world,

things that enhance our status and cheat our souls.

We seek comfort in simple answers and easy outs.

*We disregard the marginalized and mock weakness,
forgetting that Jesus lifted up the lowly and made his home among the vulnerable.*

God of blessing, reorient our hearts and renew our minds,

that in all things we may walk humbly with You.

+Act of Praise

MARION

Praise God, who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,

The Father, Son, and Spirit blest, one God forevermore.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

- Edward Plumptre

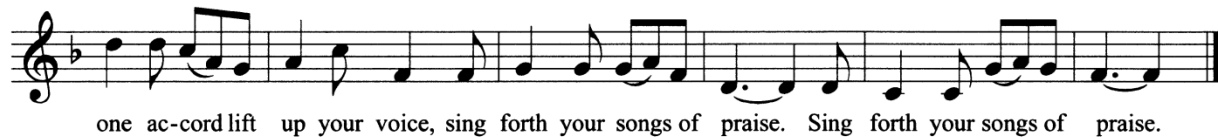
Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

Psalm 15

setting by Hal Hopson



Leader: *O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?*

Higher voices: ***Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;***

Lower voices: ***who do not slander with their tongue,***

Higher voices: ***and do no evil to their friends,***

Lower voices: ***nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;***

Higher voices: ***in whose eyes the wicked are despised,***

Lower voices: ***but who honor those who fear the LORD;***

Higher voices: ***who stand by their oath even to their hurt;***

Lower voices: ***who do not lend money at interest,***

Higher voices: ***and do not take a bribe against the innocent.***

Leader: *Those who do these things shall never be moved. REFRAIN*

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Alex Lockridge

I Corinthians 1:18-31

Hymn 507

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

A Reading from the Gospels

Carolyn Garr

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon

“The Wisdom of Weakness”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn

Christ, You Call Us All to Service

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.

*Christ, You call us all to service, call us all to follow You;
Plant in us a deep commitment all Your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for Your justice, in us kindle love of peace;
Help us heal the brokenhearted, to the captive bring release.
Teach us how to work together, brothers, sisters, side by side;
Equal partners in the struggle, in the cause of truth allied.
To each one some gift is given, man or woman, young or old;
Help us use each skill and talent Your great purpose to unfold.
Let us be a servant people, reconciling, ending strife;
Seeking ways more just of sharing and of ordering human life.
Fill us with a glowing vision of this world as it should be;
Send us forth to change that vision into blest reality.*

- Joy Patterson

+Offertory Prayer

J. Bill Sosh

Offertory Anthem

Blest Are They setting by David Haas and Michael Joncas

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.
Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God.
Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.
Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

- from Matthew 5

Remembering Our Past

Pat Parkey

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

+Hymn 290

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

O WALY, WALY

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge

*Go out into the world and do what is right;
speak the truth with courage.
And may God lead you into righteousness and peace,
May Christ Jesus fill you with divine mercy,
and may the Holy Spirit be with you, this day and every day. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Voluntary on HYFRYDOL

by Anna Laura Page

+all who are able may stand

Yukiko Fujimura, Church Accompanist

The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of

Joseph "Bo" Pace

by

Janet Pace and family

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