

First Baptist Church at Worship

January 7, 2024
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Epiphany of the Lord

Gathering

Greeting

Alex Lockridge

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer
Nick Hibbard, saxophone

arr. by J.A. Willis

Call to Worship

Jeremiah Banks

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking, 'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know, 'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Let us worship Christ, the Light of the world.

+Hymn 158

Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

+Prayer of Confession

Alex Lockridge

*...rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. **Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.***

+Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

+The Peace

Jeremiah Banks

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Act of Praise

FESTAL SONG

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.*

David Garr, trumpet

Proclaiming

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Carolyn Garr

Isaiah 60:1-6

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn 151

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

A Reading from the Gospels

Pam Worthy

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

"Guiding Light"

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn of Response

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

NYLAND

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.

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
To take away transgressions, and rule with equity.
He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.
To Christ shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.*

+Offertory Prayer

Jackson Lowe

Loose change received in January will go to Olive Branch Ministries.

Offertory Anthem

Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come

Allen Pote

Prayers of the People

Jeremiah Banks

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 156

stanzas 1 & 3

Shine, Jesus, Shine

SHINE

Alice Tremaine, cantor

+Commission and Blessing

Jeremiah Banks & Alex Lockridge

*Go now, seek out the Christ wherever he may be found.
Bring light to those in thick darkness, a voice to those no one speaks for,
And hope to those no one cares for.*

*And may God make you a sharer in the promised light.
May Christ Jesus fill you with his sense of what is right.
And may the Holy Spirit be to you like rain that gives life to the fertile earth. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

setting by Lani Smith

+all who are able may stand

leading in worship today

Rev. Jeremiah Banks
Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Donna Davis
Organist

Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Accompanist

Carolyn Garr
Interim Music Director

Rev. Alex Lockridge
Senior Pastor

Jackson Lowe
prayer

Pam Worthy
reader

*The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in commemoration of the January birthdays of
E.R. Hopper, Sr. (10th) and E.R. Hopper, Jr. (6th)
by
The 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

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