

First Baptist Church at Worship

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Organ Voluntary

Prelude on LYONS

by Neil Harmon

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.*

+++

*Let us gather for worship,
for this day is holy to the Lord.
The joy of the Lord is our strength and salvation,
and we gather to offer our praise.
In singing and in silence, in word and in prayer,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

Hymn 87

Arise, Your Light Is Come

*FESTAL SONG

Confession of Sin

Paul Sims

Holy God, we confess that we have wandered from Your light. We follow paths of self-indulgence instead of focusing on our need of You. We passively accept the suffering of the world, expecting others to stand up and work for the change we would like to see. Lord, in Your strength, renew us and compel us by Your invitation that we may work to pursue Your justice and mercy for all people, sharing Your light in ways great and small. Amen.

Response

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gath-ered to - day._____

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people, light for the world to see. REFRAIN*
(continued on page 2)

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us Your living voice. REFRAIN
Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making Your kingdom come. REFRAIN*

- Bernadette Farrell

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture

Alex Lockridge

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

setting by Joe Cox



The heav-ens are tell-ing the glo-ry of God, the sky pro-claims all God's works.

The law of the Lord is perfect, the soul to revive.

The law of the Lord is trusted, making the simple wise. REFRAIN

The laws of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

Radiant are God's commands, giving light to our eyes. REFRAIN

The fear of the Lord is pure and forever endures,

Altogether righteous and altogether sure. REFRAIN

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart

Be pleasing in Your sight O Lord, my Rock and Redeemer.

A Reading from the Gospels

Paul Sims

Luke 4:14-21

Hymn 350

Blessed Be the Name

BLESSED NAME

Sermon

“Mic Drop”

Alex Lockridge

Responding

Hymn

The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy

*LYONS

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.

*The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.
The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place.
The outcasts are welcomed God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened in place of despair.
The kingdom of God is challenge and choice;
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
Our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.
God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
And all things cry "Glory!" to God All-in-all.*

- Bryn Austin Rees

Offertory Prayer

Jeremiah Banks

Organ Offertory

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

by Karl Osterland

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 520

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

AZMON

Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge and Jeremiah Banks

Go from this place to be the body of Christ.

Care for one another, suffer with one another, and rejoice with one another.

Give attention to God's word and proclaim the good news of freedom to all.

And may God delight your heart and sharpen your vision,

may Christ Jesus keep you in his grace,

and may the Holy Spirit bind you together as one. Amen.

Organ Postlude

*Tuba Tune in D Major**

by C. S. Lang

The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given

in memory of

Joseph "Bo" Pace

by

Janet Pace and family

and

in memory of

Bill and Ruby Cobb

Tom and Peggy Moore

by

Kellie Moore Steely and Kristi Moore

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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