

The First Baptist Church at Worship

9th Sunday After Pentecost

August 14, 2011

10:30 AM

(Please read as a preparation for worship.)

Vulnerability is a fitting subject for us. As a nation, we are living for only the second time in my life with a widespread sense of vulnerability, for the first time with a widespread sense of having actually being wounded. So now, much against our will, we all know more about vulnerability than we did [prior to 9/11]. Vulnerability [it turns out] is, paradoxically, the strength of covenant relationship. The capacity to be wounded to the core of our being, wounded even unto death, wounded precisely for the sake of being in intimate relationship with the other - that is what binds [God to us and us to God].

Ellen F. Davis, *The Art of Reading Scripture*

The Gathering

THE PRELUDE

Gregory Land, Organist
Debbie Lindley, Pianist

(We gather for personal and corporate reflection and prayer.)

Bless His Holy Name Andrae Crouch

March Medley arr. Mickelson/Atwood

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

(Prayer of St. Francis) Sebastian Temple

Victory in Jesus E. M. Bartlett

In Praise to the Lord

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#48 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
FAITHFULNESS

Born in a log cabin in Kentucky and educated in a one room school house, Thomas Obediah Chisholm became a preacher and poet with over 1,200 poems, many used as hymn texts. Our opening hymn, his best known, reminds us that regardless of our conditions, God is always present to envelop us with loving arms.

*OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#495 *Step by Step*
STEP BY STEP

**O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.
I will seek You in the morning
and I will learn to walk in Your ways;
and step by step You'll lead me,
and I will follow You all of my days.**

*WELCOME & PASSING OF PEACE

Dr. Rodney Kennedy

(Please register your attendance by filling out a yellow card from the pew rack and placing it in the offering bag this morning.)

We are invited to greet our nearest neighbors, extend our hand, and greet one another in the name of Christ.

(Please be seated.)

Reading & Proclaiming God's Word

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jason Hentschel

Genesis 45:1-15: Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty. And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.'" Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Jim Earnest

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Matthew 15:21-28: Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not

fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

*FELLOWSHIP HYMN

#41 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*
WELLESLEY

Englishman Frederick W. Faber gives a definitive answer to the question, "Is our God merciful?" Faber's hymn, written in 1854, reminds us that God's mercy is wider than any ocean—in fact, too large to be measured by our thinking.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

(Children in preK-grade 4 will be led downstairs for Sunday School. Younger Children preK-K will go to Room #4 and older children grades 1-4 will go to Room #3B. Parents should pick up their children after worship service.)

CALL TO PRAYER

#652 *Make Me a Servant*
SERVANT

**Make me a servant, humble and meek;
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We allow ourselves to be squeezed into the mold of this world's sense of superiority and pretend that we are invulnerable. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people with open hearts and open minds to all of your creation. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by tales of a glorious past than of the duties of the present challenges. We are moved more by private and individual ambition than by social justice. We are too guarded in our relationships with others. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. Help us to make room in our hearts for the pain and suffering of others. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us forgiveness of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Debts & Debtors)*

MUSICAL OFFERING

Sharon Kohnle

Unfailing Love Pelle Karlsson

THE SERMON Dr. Rodney Kennedy

“The Strength of Vulnerability”

The Response of God’s People

THE OFFERTORY Greg Land & Debbie Lindley

Wonderful Grace of Jesus Haldor Lillenas

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #670 v.1 *Take My Gifts...*
MADILL

**Take my gifts and let me love You,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
Gave me life and set me free.
Now because Your love has touched me,
I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER Jason Hentschel

The Sacrament of Baptism

INTRODUCTION Dr. Rodney Kennedy

DECLARATION OF FAITH

BAPTISM of Dawn Ellis

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed*

Pastor: In the early church, a candidate came forth from the water of baptism and declared her faith through the Apostles' Creed. In faithfulness to the practice of the church, let us stand and affirm our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

PRAYER

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

(Persons wishing to join First Baptist Church are invited to come forward while the organist plays the first verse of the recessional hymn. You may join First Baptist Church by confession of faith, transfer of letter, or statement of faith. The pastor will greet you as you come forward this morning.)

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #273 *In Christ There Is No East or West*
McKEE

Words written by Englishman John Oxenham in 1908 and set to an African American spiritual by Harry T. Burleigh in 1939 remind us that Christ's words and love are for everyone!

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #523 v.1 *God Be With You*
GOD BE WITH YOU

**God be with you till we meet again!
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again!**

*POSTLUDE Greg Land & Debbie Lindley

We're Marching to Zion Robert Lowry



At the close of today's service, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the Chapel, located in the Beaver Wing. Immediately following the Lord's Supper, a Service of Healing will be held in the Chapel. The service consists of prayers for healing and wholeness, with anointing and laying on of hands. All are invited.



Worship Notes

Today is the 9th Sunday after Pentecost and the color of the season is green. The Old Testament lesson shows the vulnerability and pain in the relationship between Joseph and his brothers. In fact, every person or group in this ancient story is vulnerable and somehow we are to believe that this vulnerability is a good thing. We really struggle with being vulnerable because we have grown up in a country that promotes a power that makes us invulnerable - the Superman, Captain America syndrome. We often play our cards close to the vest, with that poker face, that refusal to commit, to go all in, to show our feelings. We are the strong, silent individual, captain of our own fate, in charge people. The story of the Canaanite woman in Matthew's gospel shows how desperate need makes a person vulnerable. When our child's life is at stake, we don't think about standing alone, or standing on protocol, or dignity, or anything else in the world. We are willing to be completely unmasked, and we will ask anything of anyone. What if vulnerability is a good thing and we need more of it if we are to have actual relationships with God and with one another?

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations, give them courage to face the perils which beset them, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



(Please see insert for announcements.)

First Baptist Church of Dayton

9th Sunday After Pentecost



The Canaanite Woman by James Tissot

Our Mission Statement:

To celebrate God's love as a community of believers in Jesus Christ through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach to others.

- Dr. Rodney Wallace Kennedy, *Lead Pastor*
- Rev. Jason Alspaugh, *Associate Pastor Children & Youth*
- Rev. C. Roland Marcus, *Associate Pastor*
- Rev. James Earnest, *Assistant Pastor of Visitation*
- Ryan Gade, *Pastor Intern*
- Ray Landis, *Music Director*
- Gregory Land, *Organist*
- R. Alan Kimbrough, *Organist*
- Debbie Lindley, *Pianist*
- Linda Mullins, *Financial Secretary*
- Linda Blair, *Church Secretary*
- Jerry Cook, *Custodian*

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