

The First Baptist Church at Worship

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

February 20, 2011

10:30 AM

A guide to your meditation as you listen to the prelude, prepare your minds and hearts for worship, and sit amazed in the presence of the Lord:

"The church is formed by a people who have no reason to fear the truth. They are able to exist in the world without resorting to coercion to maintain their presence. They cannot and should not wish to provoke the world's violence, but if it comes they must resist even if that resistance means the necessity of leaving one place for another. For as Christians we are at home in no nation. Our true home is the church itself, where we find those who, like us, have been formed by a savior who was necessarily always on the move."

- Stanley Hauerwas, *The Peaceable Kingdom*

The Gathering

THE PRELUDE

R. Alan Kimbrough, Organist
Debbie Lindley, Pianist

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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand Allen/Thompson

Two preludes on old Irish church melodies

("Gartan" and "St. Columba") Charles Villiers Stanford

In Praise to the Lord

CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir

We Have Come to Join in Worship Holy Manna

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#50 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*
MIT FREUDEN ZART

Johann Schutz, a prominent Frankfurt, Germany attorney wrote this hymn in 1675. He was inspired by the Pietistic Movement of that period that emphasized repentance and discipleship. The form is classic in hymn writing with the first verse introduction of the theme, the middle verses giving reasons and the last verse emphasizing the theme.

*OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jim Earnest

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Rod Kennedy

O Holy and Perfect God, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. In our minds and hearts we know you have commanded us to be perfect. But the thought of perfection paralyzes our wills, defeats our purposes, and causes us to scratch for excuses and a way out. Yet there are times, O God when we see clearly the path you have called us to take in our daily lives. Forgive us for our failures to always walk in your ways, the ways of perfection, the ways of peace and love. When shame clenches tightly around our hearts in white-knuckled fear, and we despair, lift our spirits and free us from these strangling thoughts.

When doubt invades our hope and degrades our wisdom, help us remember that in Christ Jesus we possess your strength, your wisdom, your perfection. Forgive our imperfections, and make us perfect in peace and love. Amen.

*WORDS OF PARDON

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Glory to God

(#320 Celebrating Grace Hymnal)

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry in the high - est!

To God be glo-ry for e-ver! To God be glo-ry for e-ver! - Al-le-lu-iah a-men.

Al - le lu - ia a - men, Al - le lu - ia a - men, Al - le - lu - iah a - men!

*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.)

A MOMENT FOR MISSION

Rosalie Hoffman

Reading & Proclaiming God's Word

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Allyson Black

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18: The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER LESSON

Allyson Black

Psalm 119:33-40: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation Dale Wood

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Matthew 5:38-48: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

*FELLOWSHIP HYMN

#563 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*
I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

This is one of the most venerable of the spirituals sung in church. Most of us learned this hymn as children in Sunday School. The words point out the utter importance of being Christian deep in our hearts.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amy Radachi

(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 #112 v.1 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Jason Alspaugh

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

THE SERMON Dr. Rodney Kennedy

"Being Perfect"

The Response of God's People

THE OFFERTORY Dawn Kalbfleisch

Better Than a Hallelujah C. Hartford & S. Hart

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You*
(#670 Celebrating Grace Hymnal)

Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shel-ter gave me life and set me free.
Now be-cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a-way,
now the bread of love is ris-ing, loaves of love to mul-ti-ply.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER Allyson Black

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 #557 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*
SCOTT

Clara Scott was born just outside of Chicago in 1841. She was a gifted musician and studied at the Music Institution of Chicago. In 1895 she penned this hymn. One of the most interesting and important parts of this text is found in the refrain. We are asked to silently listen for the voice of God to illumine us with the Godly Spirit.

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION *May the Love of the Lord*
(#515 Celebrating Grace Hymnal)

May the love of the Lord rest up-on your soul.
May God's love dwell in you through-out ev-ery day.
May God's coun-te-nance shine up-on you and be gra-cious to you.
May God's spi-rit be up-on you as you leave this place.

*POSTLUDE R. Alan Kimbrough

"Marcia Eroica" Charles Villiers Stanford



Worship Notes

Last Sunday, we suggested that the church can't exist without confession. Failure to confess shuts us off from truth. Today, we are commanded by Jesus to be perfect. Of all the commands in the Bible, surely this is the one that we automatically shrug away: "Nobody's perfect," we say. What if we are wrong? What if perfect has little to do with moral sinlessness and everything to do with forgiveness? This means we are now captured in the possibility that perfection has everything to do with confession and forgiveness within the context of the church.

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.



Prayers of the People

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|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Margaret Barker | Terri Hendrix | Dawn Smelser |
| Charles Blake | Grace Hobart | Marion Stoner |
| Mark Buonassiss | Ruth Howell | Peter Thomson |
| Estie Clark | Joyce Johnson | Nickie Van Hoose |
| Andy Collier | Jennifer Loxley | Anne Veghte |
| Lisa Collier | Patty Loxley | Evelyn Weaver |
| Jack Coggins | Claude Malone | Don Williams |
| Marilyn Craig | Giovanna McQuillen | |
| Rector Davis | Marilyn Sue Miller | Military Duty: |
| Florida Dixon | Robert Paloncy | Jeffrey Kennedy |
| Sarah Duvall | Phyllis Pfersich | Derrick McClain |
| Bruce Dyer | Cliff Rhodes | Bryan Venys |
| Carrie Louese Ganger | Grace Hobart | Chris West |
| Jane Halliday | Don Rosenbeck | Andy Wilson |
| Bill Harrell | Dawn Shirley | |

First Baptist Church of Dayton

7th Sunday After the Epiphany



The Sermon on the Mount: Fran Angelico
"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

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*
 Rev. C. Donald Thrash, *Assistant Pastor of Visitation*

- 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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