

The First Baptist Church at Worship

15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 25, 2011

10:30 AM

(Please read as a preparation for worship.)

There is a lack of consensus about what it might mean for anyone to act with authority in our society. Among Baptists there is fierce defense of individual interpretations of Scripture as privileged over all other authorities. In this hodge-podge of loose authorities, is there a role for an interpretative community—a church—of which the individual is a member? Furthermore, what if a community of faith cannot exist without authority? Such an assertion usually elicits cries of "authoritarianism." Given that most "isms" are perversions of some legitimate form, how can we tell the difference between authority granted within a community that reads, studies, and interprets Scripture together and a community where people are simply told what to think and what to believe? Another way of thinking about this is to ask, "How do Baptists learn to see the church as indispensable to salvation rather than as optional equipment?" In particular let us consider together what Paul means when he insists in Philippians 2 that we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

The Gathering

THE PRELUDE

Gregory Land, Organist
Debbie Lindley, Pianist

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

Voluntary on "Azmon" Carl G. Glaser

Spiritual Medley Traditional

"Just A Closer Walk with Thee"

"Go! Tell It On the Mountain" (settings Fred Bock)

Finlandia Jean Sibelius; setting R. Hebble

In Praise to the Lord

CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir

Come Away from Rush and Hurry #302 v.1

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#339 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*
CORONATION

First appearing in the November 1799 issue of "The Gospel Magazine," the Reverend Edward Perronet's hymn specifically calls all of us to make Jesus our Lord and King.

*OPENING PRAYER

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

(Please offer your own silent prayers following each petition.)

As we come together, let us settle into stillness

Slowly, ever so slowly, we center our minds and our hearts

Let your cares and your weariness fall away

Let your fears subside

Let your burdens drop into the lap of the Almighty

Enter deeply into silence

Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,
and know you are one with the One who is Creator, Redeemer, and
Sustainer of all

AMEN!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#342 *He Is Exalted*
HE IS EXALTED

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him!
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

*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

David Coggins

Exodus 17:1-7: From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON

David Coggins

Philippians 2:1-13: If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Matthew 21:23-32: When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

*FELLOWSHIP HYMN

#509 *Trust and Obey*
TRUST AND OBEY

In our modern day society we find that trusting is difficult. Many of us find that obedience is even more difficult in that we do not like to follow orders. The Reverend John H. Sammis reminds us that, in our walk with our Lord, trusting Jesus' teaching is necessary to living a full life.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Johnelle Kennedy

(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

#391 v.5 *Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire*
CAMPMEETING

**O Christ, by whom we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way,
the path of prayer You also trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison) Rev. Jim Earnest

Lord, we have got it wrong so often. We thought you just wanted us to show up here and there. We thought you just wanted our hour of worship: songs of praise and prayers of passion. But you want the whole of our lives: a worldly worship of acting justly and living compassionately. You look inside and ask us who we are and what we want. Forgive us our sins, we pray: challenge us where we are unjust, disturb us when we don't care, and transform our selfishness through the love of your Son and the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Rev. Jim Earnest

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. Jim Earnest

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

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

Let This Mind Be In You Austin C. Lovelace

THE SERMON Dr. Rodney Kennedy

"Don't Tell Me What to Do!"

The Response of God's People

THE OFFERTORY Debbie Lindley

Etude in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 25, No. 7 Frederic Chopin
(Cello)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #665 v.1 *Because I Have Been Given Much*
SEMINARY

**Because I have been given much, I, too, must give;
because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every person that I see
who has the need of help from me.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER David Coggins

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

#352 *All Praise to Thee*
SINE NOMINE

Episcopalian priest, Biblical scholar and hymn writer F. Bland Tucker wrote our closing hymn in 1938. The words remind us that we are to go forth trusting, obeying and praising our Lord. Written in the 20th century, this hymn is relatively new. Set to the familiar hymn tune SINE NOMINE, it is easy to learn and sing.

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #268 *The Bond of Love*
SKILLINGS

**We are one in the bond of love;
we are one in the bond of love.
We have joined our spirits with the Spirit of God;
we are one in the bond of love.**

*POSTLUDE Greg Land

Grand Chorus in B Flat Theodore Dubois



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

Wrestling with authority is an ongoing crisis. Over the last two hundred years, the loci of authority has frequently changed. At one time the church was the center of authority. Then the institution was replaced by a book - the Bible. Today, authority is rooted more often in the individual - in how we feel, perceive, and decide in our own hearts and minds. The idea of individual authority can be a little scary. And yet even in church, we tend to cry, "Don't tell us what to do!" In today's lesson from Exodus, the Israelites challenge Moses' authority over them because their needs aren't being met in the wilderness under his leadership. In Matthew's gospel, the chief priests question Jesus' authority as he teaches in the temple. The lesson from Philippians orients disciples to a new way of being—that they take on the mind of Christ. In this, Paul argues that every knee will bend and every tongue confess the authority of Jesus as Lord. The church is one place where people may wrestle honestly, openly with issues of authority.

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

15th Sunday After Pentecost



Is the classroom a place of authority?

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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