

The First Baptist Church at Worship
12th Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday

September 4, 2011

10:30 AM

(Please read as a preparation for worship.)

Slow down! Listen. It will do us no good to hurry here. Here, the first is last and the last is first. Here, the greatest must become like the least of these. Here, there is neither male nor female, rich or poor, black or white, young or old, straight or gay; for we are all one in Christ Jesus. All our striving to be the fastest, the first, the greatest, or the strongest will only distract us from the voice of the One who calls us and draws us near. So settle down. Center down. And be here.

The Gathering

THE PRELUDE

R. Alan Kimbrough, Organist

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

Chorale Prelude on "Schmücke dich" J. S. Bach
Chorale Partita on "Schmücke dich" Johann Gottfried Walther

In Praise to the Lord

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jason Alspaugh
#305 The Church at Worship

Leader: Mighty God, whose Word invites us to approach you by every avenue of praise,

People: Grant us, Your church, grace to play every instrument,

Leader: to paint with every pigment,

People: to enact with every limb and gesture

Leader: the fullness of your glory,

People: so that we might join with all the earth,

Leader: and all below,

People: and all above

Leader: to declare Your greatness.

People: Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Leader: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

ALL: one God, now and forever. Amen.

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#456 *I Come with Joy*
DOVE OF PEACE

The psalmist exhorts us to "Sing a new song" and our opening hymn is indeed new. Brian Wren penned these words in 1968 to the old American hymn tune DOVE OF PEACE to remind us of the joy of Christians gathering to worship.

*OPENING PRAYER

Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*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

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

(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 NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON

David Coggins

Romans 13:8-10: Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Dr. Rodney Kennedy

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Matthew 18:1-20: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling-blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling-block comes!

"If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

*FELLOWSHIP HYMN

#96 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*
HOUSTON

Lutheran organist and hymn writer Kathleen Thomerson wrote this hymn in 1966 to remind us that as Christians we live in the light of Jesus. The third verse emphasizes that when we live as Christians, we know the joy of Jesus.

THE 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

#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!**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Jim Earnest

MUSICAL OFFERING

Ray Landis

If You Search With All Your Heart Craig Courtney

THE SERMON

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

"A Church That Listens"

The Response of God's People

THE OFFERTORY

R. Alan Kimbrough

"Schmücke dich" Johannes Brahms

*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

The Right Hand of Fellowship

Today we extend the Right Hand of Fellowship to:

Shawn and Marlena Graves

Shawn and Marlena join by Statement of Faith.
Their faith partners are Nathan Owens and Kimberly Bogan.

(SEE INSERT)

Celebration of Holy Communion

(Celebrants: Dr. Kennedy and Rev. Marcus)

INVITATION

Rev. C. Roland Marcus

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Marcus

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves;
we have not loved ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Anyone in Christ is a new creation;
the old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dr. Kennedy

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

BREAKING THE BREAD

Dr. Kennedy

#178 *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*
Congregation

SHARING THE CUP

Rev. Marcus

"Elevation" Dom Paul Benoit
R. Alan Kimbrough

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Rev. Marcus

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

#267 *Blest Be the Tie*
DENNIS

*This well known traditional end to our Communion service reminds us
that we are forever bound in our love of our Savior and our love of each
other. As we leave this place we pray to remember that Spirit of love.*

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

*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

R. Alan Kimbrough

Toccata in C Major J. S. Bach



*The flowers today are given by Nick and Anna Gough
in honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary on August 29th.*



Worship Notes

Have you ever considered that the writings contained within the Bible were largely generated out of conflict? Our Gospel Lesson for today is a prime example of scripture that indicates that there was/is/will be some kind of conflict; and where there is conflict, a decision/judgment has to be made in order for it to be resolved. Often scriptures like this can sound harsh in passing judgment (and sometimes they really are as harsh as they sound), but we must always remember that the goal is always *to keep us together*; not tear us apart by casting people out. For all of our judgments, we must remember Jesus' assertion that *it is not the will of our Father in heaven that one...should be lost*. Not one.

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.

First Baptist Church of Dayton

12th Sunday After Pentecost



Unity by Jonas Ellison

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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