First Baptist Church at Worship

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2023
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Gathering

Greeting and Call to Worship

Alex Lockridge

We are God's people, walking together.

It is the Lord who makes us live and grow.

We are God's servants, working together.

It is the Lord who summons us to work and worship.

+Hymn 477

We Are Called to Be God's People

AUSTRIAN HYMN

+Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

God of steadfast love, how often do we utter careless words that humiliate or harm? How often do we lash out in anger, when we could reach out with kindness? How often do we hurt those we love and tear away at relationships that give life?

Forgive us, we pray. In Your abundant mercy, give us the grace to confess our faults, to seek forgiveness, and to work for reconciliation in our homes, in our church, in our community, and in our world.

Turn our hearts back to You and teach us the ways of love, so that we might hold fast to one another and draw near to Your presence. Amen.

+Response NETTLETON

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love. Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above. Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You save from sin! How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

- Native American hymn

Proclaiming

A Moment for Children

Jeremiah Banks

+Hymn 274

As Grain on Scattered Hillsides

MERLE'S TUNE

stanzas 1, 2, and 3

A Reading from the Letters to the Churches

Alex Lockridge

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

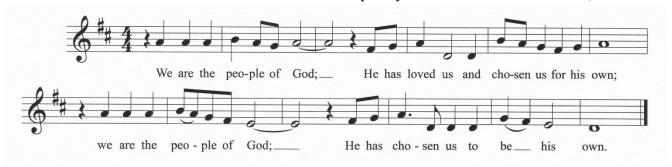
What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field.

- I Corinthians 3:1-9

Anthem

We Are the People of God

by John Carter



Filled and clothed with his Spirit, forgiving as he forgave;

Bound and blessed by his perfect love, his everlasting love. **REFRAIN**

The peace of Christ is in us, for peace is our calling now.

Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs we offer him with joy. **REFRAIN**

All we do in word and deed, we do in his holy name.

Giving thanks to God above, with glad and joyful hearts. REFRAIN

- from Colossians 3

A Reading from the Gospels

Paul Sims

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

-Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon

"The Wisdom of Common Purpose"

Alex Lockridge

Responding

+Hymn 272

They'll Know We Are Christians

ST. BRENDAN'S

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.

+Offertory Prayer

Jeremiah Banks

Loose change received in February will benefit the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Offertory – "A Place at the Table – for Everyone"

Remembering Our Past

Brandon Wood

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

+The Peace Jeremiah Banks

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+Hymn 637 Guide My Feet GUIDE MY FEET

+Commission and Blessing

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

Go from this place as people of integrity and reconciliation.

Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."

In all the paths you walk, may God hold you steady and close,

may Christ Jesus give you fullness of life,
and may the Holy Spirit be with you, this day and every day. Amen.

Postlude * by Marc-Antoine Charpentier from TE DEUM

+all who are able may stand

Yukiko Fujimura, Church Accompanist

The flowers that grace our sanctuary are given in memory of
Al and Janie Surmont
R. L. and Hettie Owens

by

Steve and Betty Sue Surmont

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