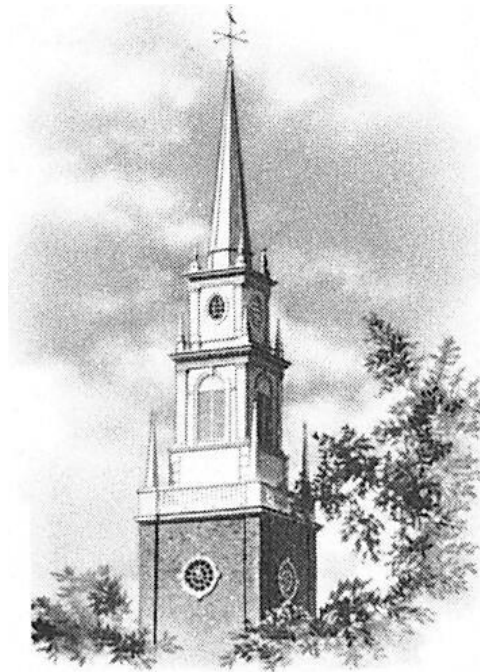


First Baptist Church

March 29, 2009



Worcester, Massachusetts
A Welcoming and Affirming Church
Mission Statement

We are a community of believers who seek to grow in our faith and understanding as we live the Way of Jesus Christ.

Morning Worship



March 29, 2009 10:00 AM

*Please turn pagers and cell phones to silent mode.
Nursery care is available for children during the worship service.
Please speak to one of the ushers for assistance.*

PRELUDE *Medley of Praise* Linda McKechnie
b. 1941

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Heather Kattan

Leader: Come home! Home to the embrace of God!

People: We are walking the Lenten path from past mistakes to future possibilities. We are walking from troubling fears to a new hope.

Leader: Come home! Taste the goodness of God, hear the love of God, feel God's tender grace.

People: We're walking toward new life. We are on a path of joy, and our hearts are filled with thanks and praise.

Leader: Come home this day! Dwell with Christ in this holy place and in God's amazing grace.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 583** You Call Us, Lord Rhosymedre

***LENTEN LITANY** Heather Kattan

Leader: On this fifth Sunday in Lent, we move ever closer to Good Friday and Jesus' suffering and death.

People: In the midst of Lent, we hear both Jeremiah and Jesus speaking words of hope and encouragement as we walk in God's way.

Leader: Jeremiah speaks of a new relationship, a covenant written on people's hearts.

People: Jesus reminds us that *only if a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies will it bring forth fruit.*

Leader: Let us consider what in our lives needs to die in order that fresh growth and a renewed spirit might be born in us. Let us pray:
Loving God, we come to you from many paths, assured of your presence in this place, but full of competing voices that urge us to consider other paths than yours.

Here, we choose your way. Here we gather strength from fellow travelers. Here, we are yours and you are ours. In our coming together this day, we pray that you will strengthen us throughout our Lenten journey. Thank you for finding us. Guide us in our worship today. Our Father...(debts).

***GLORIA PATRI 734**.....Creatorex

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Brenda Baker

THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 642)

The prophet Jeremiah looks forward to a new day in Israel when there shall be a new covenant, written upon the hearts of God's people.

John 12:20-33 (pg. 875)

Jesus refers to his impending death as a time when "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified".

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands* Sue Ellen Page
b. 1949

LITTLE CHILDREN, WELCOMEKoleda

Little children, welcome! Earth is yours to live in;
arms of love protect you, little children, welcome!
We, the church of Jesus, we will help your growing,
Jesus' love enfolds you, little children, welcome!

AFFIRMATION OF THE CHILDREN..... Heather Kattan
(Children who would like to participate in a Children's Worship Experience are invited to join their worship leader following the Message.)

SERMON *The Gospel as Spy Thriller*..... Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 499** He Leadeth MeAughton

THE OFFERING OF OUR PRAYERS

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*..... Bruce Saylor
b. 1946

***Doxology 34**.....Old Hundredth

***Prayer of Dedication**

(Continued)

HOLY WEEK EVENTS



April 5, 2009—Palm Sunday

The Chancel Choir will start the day early with their annual breakfast at 8:00 AM. Morning Worship at 10:00 AM this Sunday includes the baptism of our youth candidates who have prepared for this event over the past several weeks. It is also Communion Sunday.



A presentation of the Passover Seder Meal will take place during Children's Worship. Children who would like to participate in this experience are invited to join their Worship Leader following the Children's Message.



Church School will begin at 11:45 AM so that all may attend the reception following the Morning Worship Service and congratulate our Baptism candidates.

April 9, 2009 — Maundy Thursday

A service of Communion and Tenebrae will begin at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. This service focuses on the events surrounding the last days of the life of the earthly Christ, allowing much time for silent reflection. TENEBRAE is the Latin term for "shadows". It is a service of lessons, accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. It is one of the oldest traditions in the history of the Church.



April 10, 2009 — Good Friday (Church Office closes at 12:30 PM)

April 12, 2009 — Easter Sunday



Park Congregational Church cordially invites First Baptist Church to an Easter Sunrise Service. Meet in Institute Park (across from FBC) at 7:00 AM. Following a short service, we will adjourn to the Lee Room for coffee and pastries. EVERYONE is welcome.

We celebrate the Lord's Resurrection during Morning Worship at 10:00 AM with Chancel Choir selections from Rutter, Martinson, and Handel. The sermon will be entitled, *The Unfinished Story*.



An Easter Drama will be presented in Children's Worship, followed by the Annual Easter Egg Hunt!



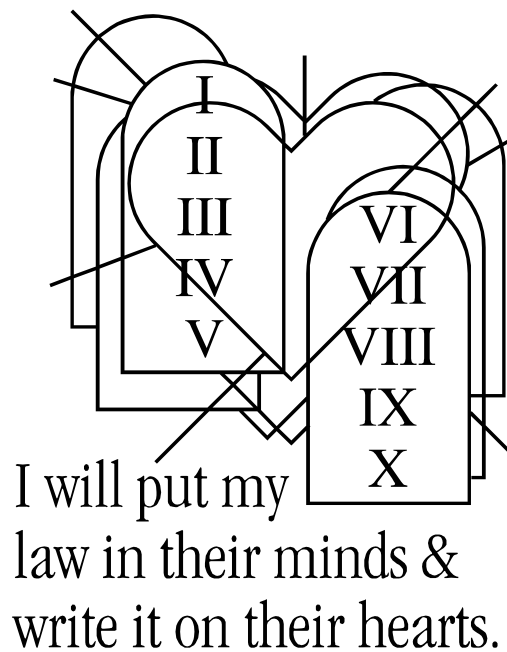
***CLOSING HYMN 458** O Jesus, I Have Promised..... Angel's Story

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Prelude on *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams
1872-1958

**Those who are able may stand.*

*Chancel Choir
Children's Choir
First Handbells
Sarah Sams, flute
William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts*



Jeremiah 31:33

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VALUES STATEMENTS

INCLUSION

We welcome all in Christ's love.

FREEDOM OF FAITH

Individual interpretation of God's Word and freedom of expression are cornerstones of our faith.

SERVICE

We seek to be a Christ-like presence in the world.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We encourage all to seek Christian growth.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE & PROGRAMS

WE WELCOME YOU...to the Morning Worship of the First Baptist Church. If you are a guest, we express a special word of welcome and invite you to fill out the Welcome Card found in the pew rack. We are honored by your presence and hope you will return whenever you are able. The congregation of First Baptist Church, believing that God's unbounded love and grace are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, embraces persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, denomination, cultural background, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. We welcome everyone to participate in the membership, life, worship, and activities of this church.✠

HEARING AIDS AVAILABLE DURING THE SERVICE...If you would like to take advantage of our hearing aids, please speak with one of our ushers, who will explain this simple yet effective device.

LARGE PRINT BULLETIN AVAILABLE...with the Order of Service. Please speak with one of our ushers to receive a copy!

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's arrangement is given by Martha Aney in loving memory of her mother, Esther Johnson Badger.✠

SUNDAY EDUCATION...We offer a variety of worship and learning opportunities for children and youth. Following the Children's Message, children are invited to attend a Children's Worship session upstairs in the Green Room. At 11:15 AM, we have Church School classes for all ages on the second floor. For more information, please speak with one of our ushers, or the Rev. Heather Kattan.☺

COFFEE AND...Join with the family and friends following the service today in Gordon Hall. Be sure to take time to reach out to those among us who are new to the First Baptist Church! ☺



TODAY'S ADULT FORUM...We welcome Kaska Yawo, Administrator of the African Community Education Program [ACE], a non-profit, community organization established to address the educational problems African children face when they come to Worcester. ACE focuses its attention on recent immigrants as well as refugees, especially those coming from countries of conflict. Their six-hour Saturday Program provides lessons in Math, English, homework help, theater, dance, and sports. Please join us at 11:15 in the Whitney Room to find out more!



FBC GOLF FELLOWSHIP MEETING TODAY...A start-of-the-season meeting of the FBC Golf Fellowship will be held at 11:15 AM TODAY in the Roy Room. All golfers who might be interested in playing with members and friends of FBC are encouraged to attend. This will determine when, where, and with what frequency folks would like to get together for a friendly round of golf. If you are interested but not able to make the meeting, please e-mail Dave Johnson [johnsondm1@verizon.net].



YOUTH GROUP...Time to GET PAINTING! Join us as we organize, paint, and otherwise beautify the Youth Lounge TODAY at 12:30 PM. We'll have pizza, and then get to work. Make sure you bring work clothes you don't mind getting dirty! Please speak with Heather Kattan if there are any questions.

CALLING ALL MEN OF THE CHURCH!...The Men's Breakfast Fellowship of the First Baptist Church, which normally meets for breakfast at KP's Restaurant



Meet for Breakfast

in Holden, will meet this month at the church on **Saturday, April 4, 2009**. The occasion is a joint meeting with the Men's Breakfast Fellowship of Emmanuel Baptist Church. The time will be **7:30 AM**, with the program beginning at 8:00 AM. Please call the Church Office to let us know you plan to attend! [508-755-6143]



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS...We need your help!

We are currently looking for individuals to be involved in teaching Sunday School this summer. If you are interested in helping out or need more information, please contact Rev. Heather Kattan by e-mail [heatherk@fbc-worc.org] or telephone [508-755-6143 x228]. Thank you!

DID YOU REMEMBER YOUR "SECRET FRIEND"?



Prayer...

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. Amen.

~Psalm 19:14

Please include in your prayers...



- Each who is homebound or in a care facility
- Those who are chronically ill
- Those who anticipate surgery or are recovering from medical procedures
- David Siddle, Cynthia Mourginis, Audrey Terpo, Marijane Jones, Margaret Gowetz, Alice Hohler, John Torrisi
- Leaders of our country and the world's people
- Victims of accident, disaster, the ravages of war
- Petitions for forgiveness, blessings and guidance, serenity and happiness, direction and opportunity
- Your relationships with others, and with God
- The Baptism Class, for their growing faith

ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR ALL WOMEN...The Central Massachusetts Association of American Baptist Women presents  "Experiencing God's Extravagant Love" on April 18, 2009 at the Baptist Church of Grafton, 1 South Street. Registration is at 8:30 AM. Cost to attend is \$6.00 and includes meal the program. To register, **Contact Dawn Wentworth by April 11, 2009 [508-839-4911].**

DELIVERING SUNSHINE...The Visitation Team is a group of Deacons and church members who regularly call on our homebound or hospitalized members and friends, bringing flowers from the altar and warm wishes from the congregation. We are looking for more Visitation Team members. If you already visit one of our homebound members or would like to join the Visitation Team, we welcome you! Please contact Karen Brockney [508-832-4267/brockney@gmail.com] or Jean Tait to learn more about this opportunity or to volunteer.

HOPE FOR HOUSING...Remember to stop by our table in Gordon Hall each week to continue making your food shopping card purchases! When cards are used at local grocery stores, the store will contribute 5% of the total purchase to Hope for Housing to give to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, for use in prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness.

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Sun., Mar. 29, 2009	8:00 & 9:00 AM — Bible & Bagels 9:00 AM Baptism Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum; Golf Fellowship 12:30 PM Youth Group
 Tue., Mar. 31, 2009	9:00 AM First Friends 9:30 AM Literacy Volunteer Reading [ESL] 10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Salisbury Belles 4:00 PM Children's Choir 5:00 PM Habitat 6:00 PM Habitat <i>The Mustard Seed</i>
Wed., Apr. 1, 2009	9:00 AM Women's Prayer; Jericho Road 5:30 PM WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS SUPPER 6:30 PM WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS; 7:00 PM Park Congregational; Food Addicts in Recovery
Thu., Apr. 2, 2009	9:00 AM Literacy Volunteer Reading [ESL] 6:15 PM First Handbells 7:00 PM Benevolence 7:30 PM Chancel Choir; Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri., Apr. 3, 2009	3:15 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Phoenix Players (offsite)
Sat., Apr. 4, 2009	7:30 AM Joint Men's Breakfast Fellowship @FBC 6:00 PM Baptism Candidate's Dinner
Sun., Apr. 5, 2009	 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00 AM Annual Choir Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship— <i>Baptism of Youth, Communion</i> 11:15 AM Scrogin Forum <i>Reception for Baptism Candidates</i> 11:45 AM Sunday School 12:30 PM Youth Group

The First Baptist Church
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508-755-6143 — www.fbc-worc.org