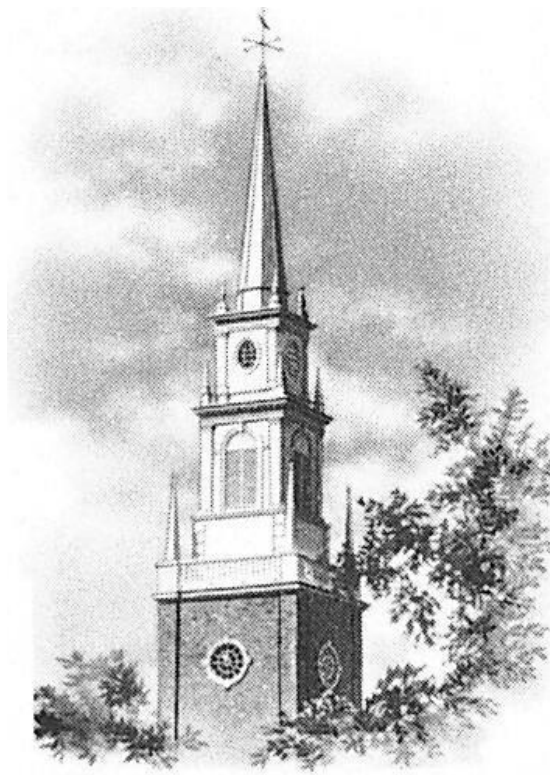


First Baptist Church

March 9, 2008



Worcester, Massachusetts
A Welcoming and Affirming Church

Morning Worship



March 9, 2008..... 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 O God, Our Help in Ages PastPaul McKlveen

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 96** O for a Thousand Tongues to SingAzmon

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Ruth Richards

Leader: Welcome to worship! Today is our Sabbath. It is Sunday, the first day of the week.

People: The day of our Christ's resurrection!

Leader: We will listen to the story of Ezekiel, his vision of the valley of dry bones, and how the bones came to life.

People: It is a sign of the resurrection.

Leader: We will hear from John's Gospel how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

People: Another sign of the resurrection.

ALL: The season is still Lent, but every Sunday gives us a taste of Easter, a time to savor the news that God's power is greater than death.

***INVOCATION**

Gracious God, we seek your life-giving power. We long to trust that you have the power to conquer death. Be with us. Speak to us today your wonderful words of life. May your perfect love triumph over our fears. May your grace be sufficient for our needs. May your Spirit enter our lives anew today, refreshing us with the message that death is never your last word. In the spirit of Christ we pray the prayer he taught us: Our Father...(debts)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM Surely He Hath Borne Our GriefsGeorge Handel
from *Messiah* 1685-1759

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Ruth Richards

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Call to Giving

Offertory Shall We Gather at the River?Joel Raney
b. 1956

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37:1-14 (p. 704).....Ann Ming Samborski

ANTHEM Tune My Heart James Brighton

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE..... Thomas R. McKibbens
(After which, the children and youth 4 years old through 4th grade may leave for Junior Worship.)

***HYMN 461** Breathe on Me, Breath of God Trentham

SCRIPTURE John 11:21-45 (p. 874)

SERMON *The Strange Power to Make All Things New...* Thomas R. McKibbens

***HYMN 559** Here I Am, Lord.....Schutte
b. 1947

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** God Be in My HeadJohn Rutter
b. 1945

POSTLUDE *My Soul is Filled with Longing, Op. 122*Johannes Brahms
1833-1897

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS...Today's floral arrangement has been dedicated in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Barry by Mr. & Mrs. Alfred E. Barry.

COFFEE AND...Join your friends, and perhaps make a few new friends following the service in Gordon Hall!

ADULT FORUM...Senior Minister Thomas R. McKibbens will lead a discussion following a DVD presentation entitled: *GOLDEN RULE POLITICS*. Rooted in the conviction that God is neither a Republican nor a Democrat, that neither party is thoroughly moral nor completely immoral, the DVD explores the rightful role of faith in politics. Please join us in the Whitney Room!



NEXT SUNDAY...is Palm Sunday, and the Worship Service will reflect that wonderful time in the church year. In addition, there will be the celebration of baptism with five of our young people, together with three candidates from Primera Iglesia Bautista. Following the service, there will be a special reception to honor those who have been baptized and welcomed into the membership of the church.



CHURCHES IN WORCESTER TO PARTNER WITH REFUGEES... Refugees who arrive in Worcester are vulnerable but resilient. They don't need the American dream handed to them on a silver platter, but they do need communities of hope to come along side and serve as partners in rebuilding a hopeful future. Here are some of the ways we along with other churches are planning to help bring a sense of community:

- Help a refugee family find and move into a new apartment or home.
- Help to furnish an apartment or home and do minor repairs
- Help accompany members of a family on a shopping trip
- Help with transportation to an appointment
- Tutor a refugee in English
- Identify job opportunities for refugees
- Collect non-perishable food, bed linens, towels, blankets, personal toiletries, household cleaning products, kitchen utensils, dishes, and other common household items

If you would like to be on an On Call List when a new family is arriving in Worcester, please contact Warren Jones, Jean Perkins, Liz Waithanji, or Mary Gemme.



HOPE FOR HOUSING... Please remember to purchase and use these family homelessness prevention grocery cards for all of your own shopping. Available in Gordon Hall following worship every Sunday are grocery cards from Shaw's, Stop & Shop, and Big Y in \$25, \$50, and \$100 dollar denominations. You will get the full value of that card at the grocery store, AND the store will contribute 5% of your total purchase to Hope for Housing, who will give that 5% to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, who in turn will use it to provide prevention and early intervention assistance to families and individuals that are at risk of homelessness.

Prayer...

*Grant, O Lord, that Christ himself may be formed in us,
that we may conform to his image; for his name's sake.*

~Lancelot Andrewes

Please include in prayer...

- Today's Baptism Class
- The boards, committees, and fellowships of FBC, with their respective ministries
- Pastor Thomas McKibbens and Intern Ruth Richards
- Minister of Music & Arts William Ness
- Betty and Edmund Bennett, Elizabeth Minott, Harriet Hight, Lynn McMillen, Robert Hohler
- Those who are suffering from chronic illnesses
- Refugees, the hungry, the homeless, the abused
- Children needing unconditional love, stability, and safety
- Families who need to be nurtured in the faith



PLEASE NOTE: The Evening Prayer Fellowship will not meet again until Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 PM. The Women's Prayer Fellowship continues to meet each Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Roy Room.

OUR CALENDAR—YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Today, Mar. 9 — Daylight Saving Time begins

- 9:00 AM Baptism Class; Baptism and Beyond
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 11:15 AM Sunday School; Adult Forum
- 11:30 AM Music & Arts Committee

- Mon., Mar. 10
- 9:00 AM Montessori Rehearsal
 - 5:45 PM Buildings & Grounds
 - 6:00 PM Habitat
 - 6:30 PM Habitat

- Tue., Mar. 11
- 9:00 AM Literacy Volunteers; Montessori Rehearsal
 - 10:00 AM Weekly Staff Meeting; Skein of Knitters
 - 4:00 PM Children's Choir
 - 4:45 PM Orff Session
 - 5:15 PM Health Cabinet
 - 6:30 PM First Friends
 - 7:00 PM Governing Board
 - 7:30 PM Liturgical Dancers

- Wed., Mar. 12
- 9:00 AM Women's Prayer Fellowship;
Literacy Volunteers; Montessori Rehearsal
 - 6:00 PM Wonderful Wednesdays (concludes)

- Thu., Mar. 13
- 6:00 PM Montessori Performance
 - 6:15 PM First Handbells
 - 7:15 PM Chancel Choir
 - 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous

- Fri., Mar. 14
- 6:00 PM Montessori Performance

- Sat., Mar. 15
- 6:00 PM Dinner for Baptism Candidates

Sun., Mar. 16—Palm Sunday

- 8:00 AM Choir Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Worship and Baptism
- 11:15 AM Reception; Sunday School; Adult Forum
- Blood Pressure Check in the Library

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www.fbc-worc.org