



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WORCESTER

*A Welcoming and Affirming Church
A Safe Space for All*

First gathered in 1812



Order of Worship

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2018

10:00 AM

Welcome to First Baptist!

Alguien habla español aquí.

Es gibt hier Leute, die Deutsch sprechen.

May nagsasalita nang Tagalog dito.

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Mizo tawng in tawng kan letling thei reng e.

Temos alguém aqui que fala português.

这里有人说中文。

Kuna mtu hapa anayezungumza Swahili.

يکى اينجا فارسى صحبت ميکنه

Ici on parle français.

Thoughts on Worship

For the Second Sunday after Epiphany, we continue to reflect upon the journeying of the Magi. What (or whom) are we moving toward? What gifts do we offer our community of faith?

We also welcome Gordon Hargrove, the Director of Friendly House, one of our many mission partners. Friendly House provides a continuum of coordinated and comprehensive services for families in Worcester, and has been doing so since 1920.

* Indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Wesley Hall

Chorale Prelude “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” Görlitzer Tabulatur-Buch, S. Scheidt

Chorale Prelude

“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” (tenuous attribution to J. S. Bach, BWV 763)

The Epiphany chorale Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (How brightly shines the Morningstar) provides a musical through-line for our service today. It was written in the 16th century, a generation and a half after Martin Luther’s time, and exhibits a profoundly pious character as well as a penchant for intimacy with Christ that flies in the face of the austere narrative often written upon the Protestant reformation.

Consider the third verse:

*3. Pour most deeply within my heart, you clear jasper and ruby,
the flames of your love, and make me rejoice,
so that I may remain in your chosen body a living rib!
Because of you, gracious rose of heaven,
my heart is sick and smouldering, wounded with love.
(translation, Francis Browne)*

This expression of ardent love in such a strikingly intimate, almost jejune, fashion serves as a trenchant reminder that the God of the grandiose is also the God of the quotidian, the God of the cathedral is also the God of the shelter, and the God of the universe is also the God of the human heart.

Wesley Hall

Prayer of Illumination

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.
Amen.

*** Processional Hymn**

230 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Wie schön leuchtet

Welcome from the Church

Inside your Order of Worship should be an FBC Connection Card. If you are visiting with us, and if you would like to learn more about our church or ways you can connect more deeply within the life of our church, please fill out the card and place it in the offering plate later on in the service.

Greeting One Another in Grace

You are invited to share the grace of Christ with one another.

*** Gathering Song**

240 Gloria

The gloria may be sung in a round. Feel free to begin the hymn when the melody is at the I. II. III. or IV. line.

The Reading of the Scriptures

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out,

and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

One: May the Spirit of Wisdom lead us to understanding.

Many: Thanks be to God.

John 1:43-51

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly,

I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

One: May the Spirit of Wisdom lead us to understanding.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Moment of Christian Witness

This week we welcome Gordon Hargrove who is the Director of the Friendly House. First Baptist has partnered in mission with Friendly House for many years.

The Offering of Our Gifts

The ministries of our church are possible because of the generous gifts you pledge in support. At this time, you are invited to give your offering, as you are able.

Offertory Anthem

“How Brightly Shines” Wesley Hall

*** Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

The Sermon

“Re-Gifting”

Reverend Brent Newberry

Prayers of the People

Welcoming our New Member

* Jana Yeaton

Partnering in Church Life

Just as we arrived this morning in faith, so too, we depart to be faithful partners in the work of God. Listen now for opportunities to connect more richly in the life of First Baptist.

* Closing Hymn

231 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Festal Song

Postlude

Improvisation on “How brightly shines the morning star”

Who We're Praying for This Week

- Family and friends of Russell MacLeod upon his death.
- Rose, and her family, on the death of her mother, Mary Lou.
- Enid Hall
- Jim P.
- John Torrisi
- Nate and his fellow troops, as well as their families, on their deployment overseas.

Contact Us

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The Reverend Brent A. Newberry, Pastor
Wesley Hall, Minister of Music and Art

Thanks for being here!

We are so glad you worshipped together with us this morning! Thank you for being here. Each of you matters to us, and we hope to get to know you better. We are a Welcoming & Affirming Church, and a Safe Space for all people.

What that means: Who you are, and how you're created is a gift to this world and this faith community, and we celebrate the ways your life gives witness to the way of Christ in both. Maybe it's your race or nationality, your age or vocation, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your faith background, your political affiliation or personal aspirations, you are celebrated here. You are safe here, to fully be who God has created you to be. And if you would like to partner in ministry with us, we have no doubt that your participation will make us a better faith community.

We have weekly opportunities for learning and friendship. Check out our Announcement Flyer or subscribe from our website's home page (www.fbc-worc.org) to our weekly e-newsletter on the happenings of our church.

Following our services each week, we invite you to join us in Gordon Hall for coffee and refreshments, our treat! If you're new, we'd love a chance to get to know you, and if you're a regular, well, you know what to do--make a new friend! Gordon Hall is located through the exit to your right (the pulpit side).

All-Gender Restrooms are available in the rear of the sanctuary or to the exit to your right, near Gordon Hall. If you still aren't sure of their location, ask a new friend--they'll be happy to show you the way!

Last but not least! We have connection card inserts. Fill one out and drop it in the offering plate, and our Pastor will be happy to reach out during the week to answer any questions or give you any more information about our great church!