

red mountain church

S U N D A Y W O R S H I P



GATHERING EVERY SUNDAY AT 5 PM

AVON THEATER

red mountain church

S U N D A Y W O R S H I P

THE ORDINARY YEAR

NOVEMBER 15, 2009

GATHERING

REFLECTION

Autumn is the season when a year grows old. Its strength begins to wane, its light begins to go dim. It is a reminder of our own mortality and faltering strength. It is the season when we begin to look, not to the earth for hope, but toward a “city not made with hands, whose architect and builder is God.”

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

— The Apostle John

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

BASED ON JOHN 17

Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life: that we know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

May we all be one, just as you, Father, are one with Christ, and may we be united with you so that the world may believe.

HYMN OF ADORATION

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE CAN NEVER FAIL

Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal #245

Author unknown

Music: Benj Pocta, 2004

We travel through a barren land,
With dangers thick on every hand;
But Jesus guides us through the vale;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

Huge sorrows meet us as we go,
And devils aim to overthrow;
But vile infernals can't prevail;
O, The Christian's hope shall never fail.

Sometimes we're tempted to despair,
But Jesus makes us then His care;
Though numerous foes our souls assail;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

We trust upon the sacred word,
The oath and promise of the Lord;
And safely through each tempest sail;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail

We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with his Word, his invitation to gather in his name.

Nursery

Ages: 8 weeks - 3 years

Children's Lessons "Beulah Land"

Age: 3

Structured nursery time including free play, Bible story, "work" time (artwork), and snack.

"Godly Play"

Ages: 4 - 9

Children are welcome to accompany their parents in church until dismissed for their lesson. Contact Bobby Bardin.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION, SEE BACK PAGE.

CHURCH BUSINESS

Officer Nominations: Currently taking nominations for the office of RMC Elder and Deacon. Please be sure to check with the man you'd like to nominate before submitting his name. Nomination forms can be found on the table near the main entrance. Give to Scott Kesler or place in offering basket.

Nursery Toy Drive: We're in great need of some new nursery toys for the baby room through the 3-4 yr. old nursery (five different rooms). New or gently used items only please. Drop toys off in the lobby by the baby nursery during December. For larger items that need to be picked up, please contact Bobby Bardin.

Women's Retreat: January 22 - 23 at Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Cullman, AL. Cost is \$30. To register, or if you are interested in helping to plan this retreat, please email Stephanie Laughlin.

MISSIONS & MERCY

Southtown Afterschool Program needs tutors from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday every week. This is a great opportunity to invest in the lives of children in grades K-8. Please contact Marshall Pollard at MSPOLLAR@SAMFORD.EDU. Volunteers also needed to help provide snacks for the students, for more information, please contact LISAMOORE8@GMAIL.COM.

6th & 7th Grade Cornerstone Girls' Club needs assistance with their holiday party on December 8. If you're interested in contributing baked goods, snacks, etc., or a \$5 ornament for the party, please contact Hayley Everitt (HAYLEYEVERITT@GMAIL.COM) or Kelley Munger (EVANANDKELLEY@GMAIL.COM).

OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome Baby Denton! Katherine "Kate" Grace Denton was born November 11, weighing 5 lbs, 13 oz. Everyone is doing well. To provide a meal for Matt and Lauren, please contact Melissa Dentici, (205) 223-4811 or MDENTICI@GMAIL.COM.

Welcome Baby Bardin! Abbott Moss Bardin was born on November 2. If you would like to provide a meal for Bobby, Anna & big sisters Halsie & Vera, please contact Cynthia Hill at CYNTHIAHILL@GMAIL.COM.

Red Mountain Music Christmas Concert at Workplay Theater, December 21 at 8 p.m. Mark your calendars, ticket info coming soon!

Red Mountain Music CDs make great holiday gifts. Our *Silent Night* album features Advent hymns. In November & December, all RMM CDs can be purchased on Sunday evenings at a special Holiday rate of only \$5 per CD.

Tonight's Nursery
Hawkins/Sullivan CG
Parris/Zinn CG

November 22 Nursery
Gignilliat/Wear CG
Denton CG

Each community group is asked to recruit 5 - 7 volunteers to serve in the nursery. Volunteers should arrive at 4:45 p.m. If your group can't participate on the assigned date, swap with another group at least a week in advance. Contact Bobby Bardin.

Announcements

To have an announcement added to the bulletin, email Stephanie Laughlin.

Lost & found

located in kitchen.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH

FROM THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM, Q. 30-31

How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

What is effectual calling?

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

HYMN OF ADORATION

GOD OF MY LIFE, TO THEE I CALL

Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal #967

Words: William Cowper

Music: Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy & Benj Pocta, 2007

God of my life, to Thee I call,
Afflicted at Thy feet I fall;
When the great water floods prevail
Leave not my trembling heart to fail.

That were a grief I could not bear,
Didst Thou not hear and answer prayer;
But a prayer hearing, answering God
Supports me under every load.

*Poor though I am, despised, forgot
Yet God, my God, forgets me not;
And He is safe and must succeed for whom
The Lord is sure to plead.*

Friend of the friendless and the saint,
Where should I lodge my deep complaint?
Where but with Thee, whose open door
Invites the helpless and the poor!

REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

God opposes the proud,

But He gives grace to the humble.

Let us silently confess our sins to God ...

WORDS OF GRACE

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. I declare to you in the name of Jesus that you are forgiven! Amen!

HYMN OF GRACE

JESUS WITH THY CHURCH ABIDE

Words: Thomas Pollock, 1836-1896

Music: Christopher Miner, 1997

Jesus, with Thy church abide;
Be her savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

Keep her life and doctrine pure;
Grant her patience to endure,
Trusting in Thy promise sure:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

May she one in doctrine be,
One in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in Thee:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find
And the brokenhearted bind:
We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

PRAYING THE PSALMS

FROM PSALM 138

Please begin by praying in silence ...

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.

All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

**Do not forsake the work of your hands!
Amen!**

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH (GODLY PLAY)

DEVOTED TO THE SCRIPTURES

HEARING GOD'S WORD

MARK 4:1-20

¹Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ²He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."

⁹Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

¹⁰When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹²so that,

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

¹³Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.

**The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

HEARING THE GOSPEL

WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING

HYMN OF OFFERING

BE THOU MY VISION

Words: Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art.

Thou my best thought
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom,
and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee
and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield,
sword for my fight;
Be Thou my dignity,
Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter,

** Please remain seated for offering
hymn (congregation sings in unison).*

Thou my high tow'r:
Raise Thou me heav'nward,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I need not,
nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always:
Thou and Thou only,
first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven,
my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heav'n's Son!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

CELEBRATING THE HOLY FEAST

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

It is good and right to do so!

Truly it is good and right that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven and all the Church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosannah!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosannah in the highest!**

We break bread in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast.

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS

I know, O Lord, that you have risen. I feel the weakness and frailty of my flesh and my will. But I hope in the power of the gospel, the power of the resurrection. As I feast at your table, eating the bread and drinking the cup, fill me with life again. Sustain me by your grace that I might run in the path of your commands.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH UNBELIEF

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

We welcome all followers of Jesus Christ to partake in this sacrament of communion: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is of benefit to you as you reflect on your relationship with Christ and with his people, the church.

We celebrate by coming forward to feast at the Lord's table. Please approach the table, break off a piece of the bread, and drink the wine from the common cup as it is offered to you. If you don't feel comfortable drinking the wine or are concerned for health reasons, there are smaller cups of juice available.

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. Our tradition at Red Mountain Church is to extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

PRAYER FOR THOSE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE

God, I am beginning to see that I am more sinful and lost than I dared to believe, and yet in Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared to dream. I thank you for the work of Christ, his atoning death and his perfect life, which are credited to me when I turn from my sin and believe. Help me to embrace Christ as he is offered to me in the gospel, and in believing, help me live a new life.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS STRUGGLING WITH SIN

O Lord, my transgression is ever before me! It clings to me! Help me believe that the Gospel is bigger than my sin. Help me see that Jesus' work not only frees me from the penalty of sin, but also breaks sin's power. As I feast on the bread and wine, convince me that I am no longer struggling to be free from sin, but that in Christ I am now free to struggle with my sin.

BENEDICTION

RED MOUNTAIN CHURCH

POST OFFICE BOX 55825 BIRMINGHAM AL 35255
(205) 321-2510 / REDMOUNTAINCHURCH.ORG

Tom Cannon *Pastor*
201-1810 tcannon@redmountainchurch.org

Scott Kesler *Assistant Pastor & Community Groups Coordinator*
329-4492 scott@redmountainchurch.org

Brian T. Murphy *Chief Musician*
briantmurphy@mac.com

Bobby Bardin *Children's Coordinator*
453-4361 bobby@redmountainchurch.org

Sarah Allen *Financial Administrator*
994-4234 sarah@redmountainchurch.org

Stephanie Laughlin *Administrative Assistant*
529-0479 stephanie@redmountainchurch.org

ELDERS

Brian Barrett	873-3090	bbarrett@garrisonbarrett.com
Mitch Cole	837-8910	mcole@bsc.edu
Andrew Cordell	222-9335	acordell@southernco.com
Mark Gignilliat	726-4123	msgignil@samford.edu
Jerry Grant	902-9228	jgrant@danielcorp.com
Miles Gresham	492-0318	milesgresham@mac.com
Cal Morris	542-6923	

DEACONS

Bobby Bardin	453-4361	bobby@redmountainchurch.org
Doug Clapp	249-1354	dcclapp@samford.edu
Hunter Finch	837-9412	hfin@mcgriff.com
Rodney Green	368-5286	lawn-mowwer@hotmail.com
Brooks Lumpkin	903-2352	brooksl@gmail.com
Jared Shull	369-6579	jared@outpostpictures.tv
John Williams	602-1100	jwilliams@mawins.com

To receive weekly email announcements, Go to:

redmountainchurch.org/news/newsletter.html

Or you can click on "News," then "Signup for Newsletter."

Sermons available for download: redmountainchurch.org.

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New to Red Mountain Church?

You'll get a chance to meet some folks during our worship services, but real relationships take time. Community groups are the best way to find your stride at RMC and to join in the life of the church. Groups meet in members' homes in neighborhoods across the city, and meeting formats vary. For more information about community groups or church membership, contact Scott Kesler.

OUR PLACE

Within a few miles of Red Mountain lives all the diversity of Birmingham, Alabama. Throughout Southside, UAB, Highlands, Downtown, Lakeview, Avondale, Woodlawn, Crestwood and Homewood, the glory and the poverty of the city are mixed together. Red Mountain Church hopes to be deeply rooted in these few square miles. Stand in downtown Birmingham anytime day or night, and you will see “the friendless, the sorrowing, the rich, and the poor.” This is our place!

OUR PURPOSE

To embrace and embody the gospel in the church and among all the people of Birmingham with the hope of seeing the joy and peace of Christ’s kingdom come to our city.

OUR HOPES FOR BIRMINGHAM

That Christ will create, out of the diverse communities of our city, a new worshipping community, which will experience the grace, joy and freedom of the gospel. “Praise awaits you O God in Zion ... blessed are those you have chosen. We are filled with the good things of your house!” (Psalm 65)

That we will become a welcoming community, open to the skeptic, the seeker, the new convert and the struggling Christian. That we will meet needs (spiritual, physical, social), and share together in the life of Christ. “They broke bread in each other’s homes with glad and sincere hearts, enjoying the favor of all the people. And God added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2)

That we will become a serving community that loves our city and which gives to, challenges and changes Birmingham through gospel ministries of word, justice and mercy. “They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.” (Isaiah 61)

That we will become a growing community that helps establish other churches around Birmingham, the nation and the world. “All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing.” (Colossians 1)

WE BELIEVE...

WE BELIEVE that the gospel – as taught in Scripture and lived out through the church – changes everything