

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

JANUARY 17, 2010

GATHERING

REFLECTION

The feast of Epiphany (January 6 – ending the “Twelve days of Christmas”) is not as well known today as is Christmas, but it is older and has an even more important place in early Christian history. It completes the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle. The word Epiphany means “manifestation.” In Christian use it refers particularly to the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ, especially in his birth, baptism, and first miracle at the wedding of Cana. It is a season that celebrates the light and power of God as they are revealed in Christ, “God with us.” It is a season of hope for the Church!

*The Lord has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
On that day they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.
The Lord your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

– The Prophet Zephaniah

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen!

HYMN OF ADORATION

HIGH BEYOND IMAGINATION

Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal #582

Words: William Gadsby, 1838

Music: Benj Pocta, 2006

High beyond imagination
Is the love of God to man.
Far too deep for human reason
Fathom that it never can.
Love eternal
Richly dwells in Christ the lamb.

Love like Jesus' none can measure,
Nor can its dimensions know;
'Tis a boundless, endless river,
And its waters freely flow.
O ye thirsty,
Come and taste its streams below.

Jesus loved, and loves for ever;
Zion on His heart does dwell;
He will never, never, never
Leave His church a prey to hell.
All is settled,
And my soul approves it well.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION, SEE BACK PAGE.

CHURCH BUSINESS

Congregational Meeting: NEXT SUNDAY, January 24, immediately following the service. All RMC members are encouraged to attend, and visitors are welcome.

Women's Retreat: Registration deadline TONIGHT. January 22 - 23 at Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Cullman, AL. Nancy Carroll will be the speaker. Cost is \$30. To register, contact Stephanie Laughlin.

RMC Women's Bible Study: Fridays, starting January 29, 10 a.m. - noon, a 13-week study on Galatians using Redeemer Church's (NYC) study guides. Childcare provided. If you are interested in attending, contact Nan Merrow (NANNERBEAN75@YAHOO.COM) or Stephanie Laughlin.

"What is Red Mountain Church?" Class: Jan 30, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Avon Theater. This class explores what we believe as a church and why we do what we do. For potential RMC members and anyone wanting to know more. Contact Stephanie Laughlin.

Men's Retreat: February 26-27 at Hargis YMCA Retreat Camp in Chelsea, AL. 7 p.m. Friday through Saturday lunch. Cost is \$30 and includes lodging and Saturday breakfast & lunch. Mark Gignilliat will be speaking. Contact Scott Kesler to register.

Nursery Workers: RMC is looking for 3 additional workers for the nursery. Contact Bobby Bardin.

MISSIONS & MERCY

RMC is planning a trip to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in fall 2010. Space is limited; the main need is for medical providers and possibly a counselor, but all are welcome. If interested, contact Michael Treadwell (THETREADWELLS@MAC.COM) or Miles Gresham (MILESGRESHAM@MAC.COM).

Southtown Afterschool Program needs tutors for grades K-8 from 3 - 4:30 p.m., Mon - Thurs every week. Contact Marshall Pollard (MSPOLLAR@SAMFORD.EDU).

OUR COMMUNITY

Cornerstone School Information Meeting: January 25, 7 p.m. at the home of Tim & Charlotte Donlon, 505 55th Street South. Cornerstone School, located in Woodlawn, serves students in K4-8th grades. Dr. Nita Thompson, Executive Director, will discuss the school's mission and vision, and will provide information regarding the application process for parents who are interested in their children attending the school. Contact Tim Donlon, (205) 527-7336 or TCDONLON@GMAIL.COM.

Tonight's Nursery
Greer/Jones/Little CG
Pless/Torsch CG

January 24 Nursery
Williams CG
Helms/Laughlin CG

Each community group is asked to recruit 4 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 HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I trust Him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because He is almighty God; He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and saves us from our sins even as salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere.

HYMN OF ADORATION

TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

Words: Louisa M.R. Stead, 1882

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
And to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus says the Lord!"

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

God opposes the proud.

But He gives grace to the humble.

Let us confess our sins to God ...

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives. Illumined by your Word and sacrament, may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

In this season of light, hear the words of the Apostle, as he prays that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. May God fill you with the peace of Christ. Amen!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

MAXWELL TITUS KESLER

BAPTISM HYMN

Words: Henriette L. Von Hayn, 1778

I am Jesus' little lamb
Ever glad at heart I am
For my Shepherd gently guides me
Knows my need and well provides me
Loves me every day the same
Even calls me by my name

HYMN OF GRACE

SATISFIED

Words: Clara T. Williams, 1875

All my life long I had panted
For a drink from some cool spring,
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within.

Hallelujah! He has found me
The One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings,
Through his blood I now am saved.

Feeding on the filth around me,
Till my strength was almost gone,
Longed my soul for something better,
Only still to hunger on.

Poor I was, and sought for riches,
Something that would satisfy,
But the dust I gathered round me
Only mocked my soul's sad cry.

Well of water, ever springing,
Bread of life so rich and free,
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH (GODLY PLAY)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PSALM 16

Please begin by praying in silence ...

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Amen!

DEVOTED TO THE SCRIPTURES

HEARING GOD’S WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 – 11:16

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

^{11:1}Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. ²Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you.

³But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. ⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, ⁵but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

⁶For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut

off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. ⁷For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. ⁸For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

⁹Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

¹⁰That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. ¹¹Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; ¹²for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. ¹³Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, ¹⁵but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. ¹⁶If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

GENDER, CULTURE & COMMUNITY

WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING

HYMN OF OFFERING

JESUS I COME

Words: William T. Sleeper, 1887

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

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

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

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.

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.

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.

BENEDICTION

RED MOUNTAIN CHURCH

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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.

Hymn lyrics reprinted with permission: CCLI 2321334

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