red mountain church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

GATHERING EVERY SUNDAY AT 5 PM AVON THEATER

red mountain church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2010

GATHERING

REFLECTION

Lent is a forty-day season when we camp out around repentance. It is a time of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter — a season of fasting, rather than feasting.

— John Westerhoff III

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus.

— The Prophet Isaiah

CALL TO WORSHIP

PREPARATION IN SILENCE

INVOCATION

Almighty God, come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!

HYMN OF ADORATION

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

Words: George Matheson, 1882

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths its flow,
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day,
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

MATTHEW 4:1-11

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

Congregational Meeting: NEXT SUNDAY, March 21, immediately following worship service. All RMC members are encouraged to attend and visitors are welcome.

Children's Palm Saturday Celebration: Songs, stories and crafts focusing on Easter, for children ages 2 and up. Saturday, March 27, 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the Avon. We also need 6 adult volunteers. Contact Bobby Bardin.

RMC Women's Bible Study: Fridays, 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.

Nursery Workers: RMC is looking for 2 additional workers for the nursery. Contact Bobby Bardin.

MISSIONS & MERCY

Relief Efforts in Haiti: March 14 – 20, Sarah Torsch & Candace Mothershead are going to Haiti with Mission to the World to help with relief efforts. Please be praying for them as they go. If you would like to make a donation to help them with their trip, you can give by check to RMC & mark "Haiti" in the memo line.

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).

Snacks for Southtown: If you or your community group would consider planning and buying snacks for a week (or even just a day) for the Southtown afterschool program during the spring semester, please email LISAMOORE8@GMAIL.COM.

OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome Baby Stone! Johnson Pryor was born on February 25, weighing 8 lbs 1 oz, and 19.5" long. Mama and baby are doing great. To provide a meal for Molly, John, and big sisters Ellabee and Anne Bailey, email Lauren Goessling, LAUREN.GOESSLING@GMAIL.COM.

Tonight's Nursery
Williams CG
Helms CG
Laughlin CG

March 21 Nursery
Cole/Lumpkin CG
Murphy CG
Pickering 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.

HYMN OF HOPE

PENSIVE, DOUBTING, FEARFUL HEART

Taken from the Gadsby Hymnal # 273
Words: John Newton, 1779
Music: Wendell Kimbrough, 2004

Pensive, doubting, fearful heart,
Hear what Christ the Savior says;
Every word should joy impart,
Change thy mourning into praise.
Yes, He speaks and speaks to thee,
May He help thee to believe;
Then thou presently will see
Thou has little cause to grieve.

Fear thou not, nor be ashamed;
All thy sorrows soon shall end,
I, who heaven and earth have framed,
Am thy Husband and thy Friend;
I the High and Holy One,
Israel's God, by all adored,
As thy Savior will be known,
Thy Redeemer and thy Lord.

For a moment I withdrew,
And thy heart was filled with pain;
But my mercies I'll renew;
Thou shall soon rejoice again;
Though I seem to hide my face,
Very soon my wrath shall cease;
'Tis but for a moment's space,
Ending in eternal peace.

Though afflicted, tempest tossed,
Comfortless awhile thou art,
Do not think thou can be lost,
Thou art graven on my heart;
All thy wastes I will repair;
Thou shalt be rebuilt anew;
And in thee it shall appear
What the God of love can do.

REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

We have sinned against you, O Lord, our Maker, our Defender, and our Redeemer.

Our natures are corrupt and sinful, prone to fall away from you, sluggish to do good and swift to do evil.

Vain thoughts have come upon us and found lodging within us, defiling and disquieting our minds, and keeping out good thoughts.

We have burdened ourselves with that care which you have commanded us to cast upon you.

We have failed in our duties one to another.

We have provoked one another as much to folly and anger as to love and good works.

We have been cold in our love to you, weak in our desires toward you, unsteady in our walking with you.

We are even at this time poorly prepared to serve you. We beseech you — forgive all our sins, for Christ's sake, and be at peace with us in Him who died to make peace and lives to make intercession for us. Amen.

(Please silently confess your sins to God ...)

WORDS OF GRACE

Hear now God's assurance of pardon through the words of the Apostle Peter: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." Go in peace.

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.

A LENTEN LAMENT

FROM PSALM 51

Following the prayer of the leader, the congregation will pray responsively ...

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH (GODLY PLAY)

DEVOTED TO THE SCRIPTURES

HEARING GOD'S WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts;
and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So
it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit
into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free —
and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.
15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not
belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to
be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because
I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not
for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole
body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?
If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of
smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the
body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If
they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is,
there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"
And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"
22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be
weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are
less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts
that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,
24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment.
But God has combined the members of the body and has
given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that
there should be no division in the body, but that its parts
should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part
suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored,
every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a
part of it.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

CHRIST & THE CHURCH: JUST AS IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE

WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING

HYMN OF OFFERING

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

WHO IS THIS

Words: William Walsham How, 1867

Who is this, so weak and helpless,
child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered,
coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation,
who this wondrous path has trod;
He is God from everlasting,
and to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of sorrows,
walking sadly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing,
weeping over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,
who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing,
where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold Him shedding
drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces
on His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
all His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying
while the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors,
torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God who lives forever
'mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city,
reigning everlastingly.

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.

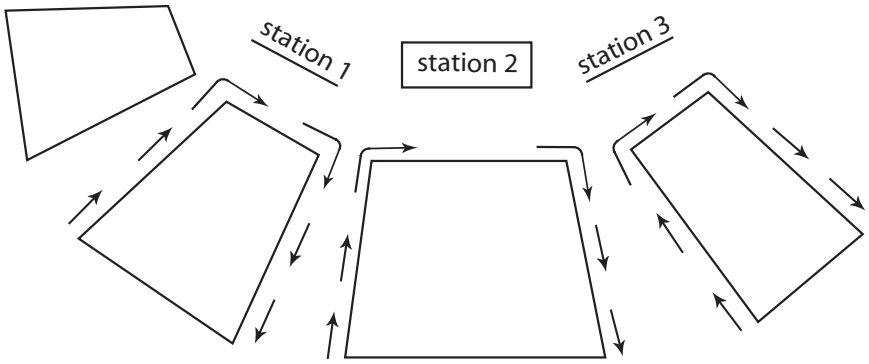
PRAYER FOR THOSE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE

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.

FLOW OF COMMUNION LINES



Please note: *There will always be an elder distributing the elements at station 2 (communion table in front of middle section).*

BENEDICTION

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.

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 Stephanie Laughlin.

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