

SERMON NOTES ♦ OCTOBER 19, 2008
A Rare Opportunity

SERMON TEXT

Malachi 3:6-12 (ESV)

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.”

NOTES

I. A Gracious Covenant (vv. 6-7a)

II. A Stunning Accusation (vv. 7b-9)

III. A Rare Opportunity (vv. 10-12)

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

2008 SESSION

Dr. Clay Brown, Moderator

Dr. Frederick A. Coates CP Chappell, Clerk

Class of 2008
 C.P. Chappell
 Roger Hyatt
 Bill Lackey
 Scott Mauney
 Eddie Nelson
 Trent Newell
 Steve Robinson

Class of 2009
 Christine B. Ahearn
 Karen O. Brawley
 F. Michael Campbell, MD
 Philip L. Heilman
 Weldon M. Hitchcock
 Thermond E. Thompson
 J. Scott Vaughan

Class of 2010
 David W. Brooks, II
 vacant
 Donald F. Howie
 Joyce S. Johnson
 Thomas R. Kirkland, Jr.
 W. Smith Kirk
 Mark E. McNeely

2008 DIACONATE

Jim McDonnell, Moderator

Class of 2008
 Don Copeland
 Neil Faulkenberry
 Gretchen Little
 Carol McClure
 Jim McDonnell
 Lucy Hastings
 Susan Williams

Class of 2009
 Dale W. Brawley
 John G. Donelson
 Judy L. Cole
 Eric H. Estes
 C. Marshall Horsman, Jr.
 Kathleen H. Irwin
 Julie R. Morrow

Class of 2010
 Kathy B. Ballard
 Laura E. Bates
 Lynn T. Brooks
 Rebecca B. Deal
 Janice S. Pluer
 J. Patrick Stutts
 Vacant

PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor/Head of Staff
 clay@moorevillefirstpres.org
 The Rev. Dr. Fred A.H. Coates, Associate Pastor for
 Congregational Care and Missions
 fred@moorevillefirstpres.org
 The Rev. Tyler J. Domske, Associate Pastor for Youth
 tyler@moorevillefirstpres.org

PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

Alan Sledge, Director of Music
 alan@moorevillefirstpres.org
 Ellen Auten, Director of Christian Education
 ellen@moorevillefirstpres.org
 Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool
 nancy@moorevillefirstpres.org
 LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer
 luanne@moorevillefirstpres.org
 Nellie Goodman, Secretary
 nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org
 Billy Black, Sexton
 Jerilyn Fair, Hostess
 Joanne Daykin, Interim Organist



Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
 Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
 704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

October 19, 2008 ♦ 11:00 A.M. ♦ Pledge Sunday

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP.....Clay Brown
 Welcome and Announcements
 Invocation

PRELUDE: *Preludio Religioso*..... Beethoven
 Billie Brawley, Organist

THE DOXOLOGY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.....34
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all
 creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**..... Fred Coates

HYMN: *O Worship the King.....2

ANTHEM: *Glory to the Lamb*..... Dempsey
 Logos Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON..... Tyler Domske

THE WORD OF GOD READ: Luke 21:1-4..... NT, p. 80
Lynelle Owen, Reader

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation
Profession and the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer
Baptism
Welcome and Blessing

ANTHEM: *God Be My Head*..... Carter
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

Confession
Thanksgiving
Intercession
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED: Malachi 3:6-12

A Rare Opportunity.....Clay Brown

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give.....Clay Brown
*Hymn: *Blessed Assurance*..... 426
*Taking Our Responses to the Lord's Table..... Congregation
*Prayer of Dedication.....Clay Brown

***GOING IN GOD'S NAME**

Invitation
Charge and Benediction

*Response: *Come, All Christians, Be Committed* (Verse 2)..... HYMN TO JOY
Of your time and talents give now, they are gifts from God above, to be used by Christians freely to proclaim his wondrous love. Come again to serve the Savior, tithes and offerings with you bring; in your work, with Christ find favor, and with joy his praises sing.

***POSTLUDE:** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*..... Manz

* **Those who are able** will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with a pastor following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of Margaret and Sam Sanders 52nd wedding anniversary. The flowers in the vestibule are in honor of Gene Harris for being a wonderful father by his daughter Jennifer Bullard.

Recent Prayer Requests: Gene Harris; Claude Voils; Joyce Schnell, Cathy Irwin's aunt; Shari Irwin, sister-in-law of Joe and Cathy Irwin; Lottie Massey; Don Fair; Mary Voils Aven; Gene and Judy Richardson; Tip McGee; Bob Davidson; Anita Teeter; Terry Stevens; Curtis Blake, Cathy Brown's father; Martha Andrews; EO3SW Laban Thompson; and those who have recently lost loved ones.

Operation Christmas Child: We plan to pack shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child project, immediately following the November 2 church supper. Operation Christmas Child delivers shoe boxes to needy children around the world. Begin shopping for items to fill the shoe boxes: **Toys:** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, etc. **School supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, markers, crayons, notepads, coloring books, etc. **Hygiene items:** toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, combs, washcloths, etc. Other items: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights and batteries, socks, etc. **Please do not include these items:** Used items, war-related items, perishable items, liquids, medicines, or breakable items. Donation boxes will be available in the church office, parlor, and fellowship hall. You may find more information about the project at www.samaritanspurse.org. In addition to packing the shoe boxes, we will enjoy "after dinner music" from the Logos choir (grades 1-6) and the PYF Band (grades 7-12).

Saints Alive: The Saints Alive luncheon will be held on the fourth Tuesday (October 28) during October only, due to the Saints Alive Beach trip. Beach trip participants will be at Island Vista in Myrtle Beach, SC, from Tuesday through Friday of this week. Participants riding in the church van should be at the church by 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 21, and plan to return to Mooresville late Friday afternoon.

Next Sunday in Worship—Reformation Sunday and Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: Next Sunday, October 26, we will observe Reformation Sunday during both 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. The Protestant Reformation, with its themes of "grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, Christ alone, and to God alone be glory," served as a necessary time of renewal and reform in the life of the Christian community. These themes continue to resonate and instruct us today. Clay Brown will preach on "The Gospel: It's for Christians, Too!" from Philippians 2:1-13. As part of our worship, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We practice "open" communion: all professing Christians and members of the covenant community, regardless of church affiliation or membership, are invited to commune with Christ.

Calendar for October 19-26, 2008

Sunday: **Pledge Sunday**
8:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Logos Choir
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF
5:30 p.m. - Catechism Club
5:30 p.m. - Discover First Pres beginning at the Manse
7:00 p.m. - Handicap Planning Task Force in the library

Monday: **Newsletter Deadline**
6:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Court of Honor in the FH
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the Coates' home
7:30 p.m. - Executive Committee

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - Saints Alive leave on Beach Trip

Wednesday: 1:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM *Bible Character* Night
6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club at What-A-Burger
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:00 a.m. - Bible Study in the Sanctuary

Sunday, 10/26 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship with Communion
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion and Exaltation Ringers
5:15 p.m. - Catechism Club with mentors
6:30 p.m. - PYF to Carrigan Farms *Forbidden Farms*
7:00 p.m. - Session

Electronic Version of Newsletter Available at Your Request: You can receive our monthly church newsletter electronically instead of having hard copies snail-mailed to you. Electronic copies will not only come to you faster, but they'll also save us the costs of printing and postage. This savings may be significant for the church as more of us choose this option. Simply let the church office know your desire for electronic copies by emailing our secretary, Nellie Goodman, at nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org, or by calling her at 704-664-5044. You also may note your preference for electronic newsletters on the Friendship Pad as you register today: just write "Electronic Newsletter" and your email address beside your name, and we'll do the rest. Please note that no one will be removed from the hard copy mailing list without his/her permission.