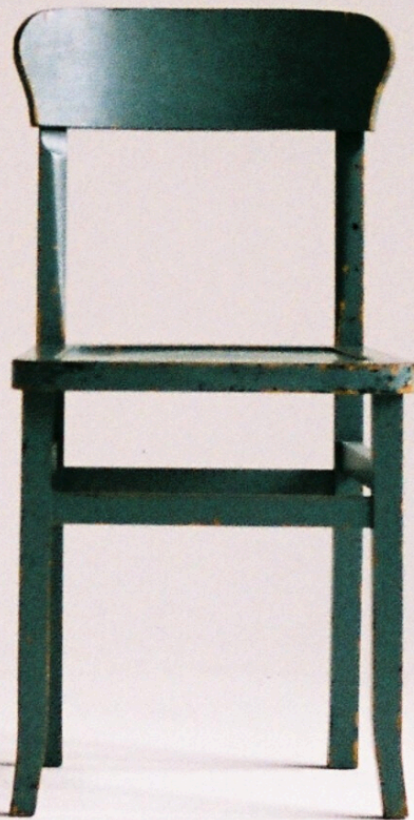


We're saving a seat
just for you!



Sermon:
The Witnesses

Pastor:
Robert Haehl

First Baptist Church
27 W Broadway St
Shelbyville IN

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!

Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever,

and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Hymn: #506 I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, your Word tells us clearly that we are to “put to death the deeds of the body.”

We are to say “No” to sin in its first inklings in our minds.

We are to do this every day, and the cost will involve pain and anguish.

But too often we grant the sin time to breathe and grow.

Too often we convince ourselves that this is only a small sin, and indulgence for a moment will not harm us or others.

Help us to be prepared to pluck out our eyes and sever hands and feet as Jesus commanded.

And today, help us to identify and destroy our besetting sins.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn of Meditation: Abide with Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me though I oft left Thee
On to the close Lord, abide with me

I need Thy presence, every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me

Assurance of Pardon:

Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant,
overlooking the sins of his special people?

**You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you
delight in showing unfailing love.**

Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under
your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

**You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love
as you promised to our ancestors Abraham and Jacob long ago.**

Hymn: #366 All to Jesus I Surrender

Hymn: #4 How Great Thou Art

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture: **John 5: 24-40**

Sermon: The Witnesses

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. ³⁰ I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

³¹ “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. ³³ You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶ But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷ And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸ But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

1 John 5:12

¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

John 4:14

¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Galatians 6:8

⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Matthew 11:3-5

³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Mark 1:10-11

¹⁰ And immediately, coming up [a]from the water, He saw the heavens [b]parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. ¹¹ Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 53:5-6

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Luke 24:25-27

²⁵ Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

John 6:44

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 10:26-27

²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Jeremiah 4:22

²² “For My people are foolish,
They have not known Me.
They are silly children,
And they have no understanding.
They are wise to do evil,
But to do good they have no knowledge.”

James 2:19

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Hymn: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when striving cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his, and he is mine
Bought by the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power in hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Til he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I stand

Benediction

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Women's Bible Study on Monday at 10 am at the Christian Center.

Men's Bible Study at 9 am Monday at the church. Bring a friend.

Today is the last day to return your Christmas Shoebox.

"Our monthly prayer list is starting fresh! You can add requests anytime. At the end of the month, we'd appreciate an update to the office or Christy to help us celebrate answered prayers and continue to lift up needs."

Looking for volunteers to help Walter and Roger with the "Hanging of the Greens" aka decorating the church for Christmas.

Interesting tidbits:

On Dec. 22 the days will start getting longer.
Only 124 days until springtime!