

MAR. 24, 2021



SoundFourth!

Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church



CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

A Word from the Director

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Prayers & Praises



"Magnify God's Name with Worship"

A Word from the Director

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining and I believe in love, even when there's no one there.

And I believe in God, even when he is silent. I believe through any trial, there is always a way.

But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair my heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there.

But a voice rises within me, saying hold on my child, I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.

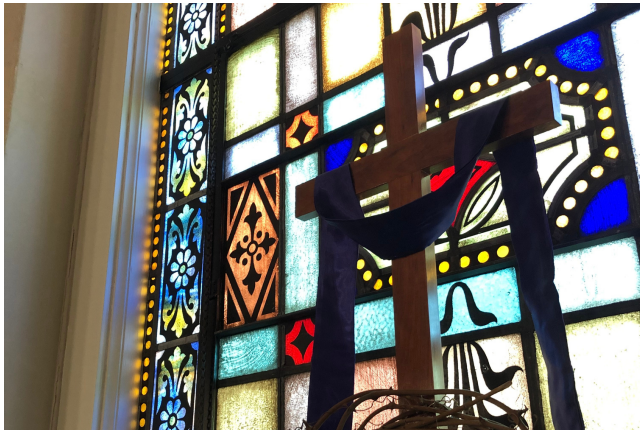
I believe in the sun even when it is not shining and I believe in love even when there's no one there.

But I believe in God even when He is silent. I believe through any trial there is always a way.

May there someday be sunshine... May there someday be happiness...

May there someday be love... May there someday be peace..."

~ Anonymous poem found on the walls of a concentration camp, 1945 ~



Hope is a powerful tool, and it is through hope that millions of people have made it through both good and horrendous days. Over the last year, we have faced circumstances that have made human beings strangers to one another. We have been pushed farther away from each other, and it has seemed almost impossible at points to see the light at the end of the tunnel when we will be able to see each other again. Thankfully now, we stand on the edge of the end of this time in our world's history, and we have every reason to thank God

for each blessing that we have had over the last year - for shelter, for food, for the revelation of what things like our jobs and our families mean to us. This past year has been a sobering reality for many around the world. But the question is: what now? Now that we stand at the top of the mountain, and we look into the Promised Land, what do we do? Do we revert to what things were before? Do we simply act like nothing happened? Here's perhaps a better way of asking the question: what are you doing right now that sets you up for spiritual success after this pandemic ends?

The poem above speaks of a hope that many in this world do not know - the hope of the moment when God is with us when all else fails.

When everything around us has been made to seem distant, uncomfortable, or frightening, what is the cry of our hearts? As the author wrote, "*But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair my heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there. But a voice rises within me, saying hold on my child, I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.*" As we return to life with each other - to school and work and family and church and all else, let us continually keep that hope that springs from the author's lips: "*But I believe in God even when He is silent. I believe through any trial there is always a way.*" As we emerge, let us live in ways that brings us closer to God with every action we take, every word we say, and every service we yield to Him in this season of Easter - a season of hope.



In His Service, Braxton

Lenten Devotional Guide

I hope that you are continuing to read through your Lenten Devotional guide! This week's devotions include:

- March 24 - One (Allen & Jo Paul)
- March 25 - II Corinthians 5:1-5 (Bryan Harris)
- March 26 - Express Gratitude (Brian Theurer)
- March 27 - John 12:37-50 (Jan Maust)
- March 28 - Lent: The Triumphant Entry (Steve Adkins)

If you have misplaced your devotional guide, or just want to have a copy on your computer, phone, or tablet, you can find the guide on our website!



Church Reopening & What That Means for Us

I am excited that we are practicing again on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in Ryberg Hall! As we move down this road together, I am so grateful for the ways in which you all have continued to be engaged and patient - we have been waiting for this day to come! Now, we can move forward in preparing for our first service on March 28th - Palm Sunday - and the days beyond! If you are still considering returning to choir - please let me know by RSVP'ing here. See you soon!



Upcoming Repertoire

Sunday, March 28

- Rejoice, the Lord is King
- I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked

Sunday, April 4

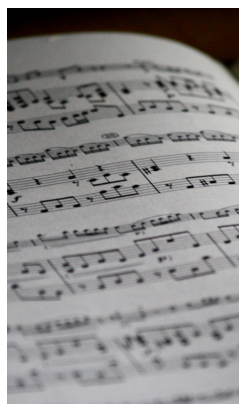
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- Christ the Lord is Risen Today
- He Loved Me

Sunday, April 11

- My Heart Adores You
- Blessed Assurance
- Lead, Kindly Light

Sunday, April 18

- Come Into God's Presence
- Bow the Knee
- God Be With You Till We Meet Again



Prayer Guide for COVID-19

In this difficult time, we are often finding it hard to have the words or presence in prayer because we are so overloaded with emotion. Below is a great resource to help each of us in praying during this time of sickness and separation.

Notice that the first letters form an acrostic - A CROWN - denoting that even in all of this that Christ is still our King of kings and Lord of lords, in control of the world around us, and holy and just in His provision and providence.



A great suggestion they have made is to pray these prayers and then listen to a song of praise. I have attached a link [here](#) to Dan Forrest's "To the Lamb Upon the Throne" and the lyrics are below.

*You servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol; his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.
God rules in the height, almighty to save; though hid from our sight, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.
"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!" let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.
Then let us adore and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing with angels above and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.*

A for Authority – We start by giving Jesus the authority due to Him. Praise God for His authority, power and might! Pray for God to extend His mercy, compassion and grace in the face of this outbreak. (Psalm 103:1-4; Revelation 4:9-11)

C for Countries - Pray God would strengthen and heal our brothers and sisters in countries around the world where the Coronavirus is most severe, and in our own communities. Pray for healing from the Great Physician. (Ephesians 3:14-16; Philippians 4:1,4-7,19)

R for Responders – Pray for courage and strength for those “running into the battle” to fight this disease. Pray for those medical personnel caring for the ill, for researchers working around the clock to discover a vaccine and pray for government leaders responsible to combat the outbreak on a global scale. (Isaiah 35:3-4,10; Isaiah 61:1-3; Romans 13:7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

O for Obedience – Pray that we, His Church, will walk in obedience, not fear, as we ask Him, “What do you want me to do?” And then LISTEN for His answer to pray, give, minister... (Matthew 28:18-20)

W for Wisdom and Witness – Pray for God’s wisdom as we face challenges and decisions brought on by the virus. How can we best prepare and respond in wisdom and love? And pray for readiness in this time of uncertainty and fear to share the Good news as God provides opportunities for us to tell others the reason for the hope we have in Him! (James 1:2-5,12; 1 Peter 5:1-4,6-11)

N for Nothing that can separate us from His Great Love! Proclaim this truth! Close your eyes, breathe deeply and rest in those promises that speak to the love and power of God! (Romans 8:28,31-35,37-39)



*When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

Prayers & Praises



Prayers

- Pray for **Jo Paul** and her family. Her cousin's husband, Robert, passed away this week after a prolonged battle with his failing kidneys. Pray for peace in this difficult time.
- Pray for **Olive Cooke**, who has lost vision in one of her eyes. She is currently consulting with doctors on the next steps as she fights an infection in her eye. Pray for comfort & peace for her and her family in this time.
- Pray for **Jimmy Jones**, who is recovering at home after being in the hospital last week. Pray for him & his family as he regains his strength.
- Pray for **Pope Hardee**, who has been diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia, which is a combination of dementia with Parkinson's. She has care five days a week. Pray that God gives her and her family peace, and gives the doctors the right ideas of how to help.
- Pray for the continued transition of our church - for wisdom, boldness, and continued trust in God.



Praises

- We praise God that **Justin Hensley's** surgery went well. Continue to pray for him in his recovery as well as peace for the **Pam & Danny** and the rest of the family.

Any prayer requests?

Praises? Updates?

Email Braxton