
JAN. 20, 2021



SoundFourth!

Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church

CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

An Announcement
A Word from the Director
Prayer Guide for COVID-19

Announcement!

Until further notice, there will be no choir rehearsals or choir on Sundays due to COVID-19.

Keep tuning in to the newsletter, the weekly video updates, and choir emails for news on when we will resume!

A Word from the Director

"Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as, by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced (ridiculous as the expression may seem) more true than the truth itself. One far superior to me has well said, in reference to this point, "A clever imitation in glass casts contempt, as it were, on that precious jewel the emerald (which is most highly esteemed by some), unless it come under the eye of one able to test and expose the counterfeit.. Lest, therefore, through my neglect, some should be carried off, even as sheep are by wolves, while they perceive not the true character of these men,— because they outwardly are covered with sheep's clothing (against whom the Lord has enjoined us to be on our guard), and because their language resembles ours, while their sentiments are very different..."

~St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, from his work *Against Heresies*, 180 AD~

We, as people, do not like error, do we? We are a human race obsessed with having things right - our jobs must be perfect, our homes need to be remodeled, decorated, and cleaned just how we want them, and even things as simple as our food orders must be to our liking or else we will be frustrated. Why, then, do so many people get led astray in how they think about and live in a world where we seemingly love order? The quote above gives us a quick glimpse, I think, into the mentality of just how an error, a lie, comes to us - not in its pure state, but dressed in a way that makes people feel safe, in control, or good about ourselves. Just like at the beginning of all things in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Adam & Eve, our world today is one that is filled with error - distractions - as it relates to our spiritual beings and the Creator of our very being. People are led astray by what appeals to them through a political lense, or a philosophical one, or perhaps a lense of influence and authority - all things which allure us just as they did Adam & Eve. Notice what Irenaeus says - "lest, therefore, through my neglect, some should be carried off." In this world where so many forces are pulling at us, we cannot be neglectful of God's truth in how we are living so that we do not get carried off by distractions or let others get carried off either. We have a story to tell to the nations!

In His Service, Braxton

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 from the Texas Baptists as to how we can be praying as a family of God in this time!

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 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)