

MAR. 3, 2021



# SoundFourth!

*Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church*



## CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

A Word from the Director

Church Reopening & What That Means for Us

Prayer Guide for COVID-19

Lenten Devotional Guide

Upcoming Repertoire

Prayers & Praises

## A Word from the Director

*Mediate a moment on the passion of Christ. The true contemplation is when the heart is crushed and the conscience smitten. You must be overwhelmed by the frightful wrath of God who so hated sin that he spared not his only begotten Son. What can the sinner expect if the beloved Son was so afflicted? It must be an inexpressible and unendurable yearning that causes God's Son himself so to suffer. Ponder this and you will tremble and the more you ponder, the deeper you will tremble. Take this to heart and doubt not that you are the one who killed Christ. Your sins certainly did, and when you see the nails driven through his hands, be sure that you are pounding, and when the thorns pierce his brow, know that they are your evil thoughts. Consider that if one thorn pierced Christ you deserve one hundred thousand. If you are so hardened that you do not tremble at this mediation, then you have reason to tremble. Pray to God that He may soften your heart and make fruitful your meditation upon the suffering of Christ. For we ourselves are incapable of proper reflection unless God instills it.*

~Martin Luther~

As we return tonight, it would be easy for us to focus on the gravity of coming back to choir. Our minds could easily rush to the question of what events we can now have, or how we will be seeing and singing with friends that we haven't seen in months. None of these are bad things, but let us take a moment to breath and remember why we are here. Luther, here, tells us of the gravity of what Christ did for us - we were each lost to our own ways until He found us and gave to us the opportunity to receive His grace.

So as we come into this room tonight, let us rejoice in what God has done - how we has protected us, kept us, and continually showed us His grace - but let us also then take time to look at that cross and remember why we come together here in the first place. The phrase that is at the bottom of every one of these newsletters is the creed by which our ministry functions - we magnify God's name with worship! Look to the cross and be overwhelmed by the God Who loved us and gave us such grace that He did not withhold His own Son from dying on our behalf. He has taken our sin and shame, and turned them to glory and freedom in His continual grace as we walk with Him. We sing that story!

In His Service, Braxton

"Magnify God's Name with Worship"

# Lenten Devotional Guide

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

- March 3 - Near the Cross (Lynda Carroll)
- March 4 - Meditation on "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (David & Betty Lynn Johnson)
- March 5 - Sin and Mercy (Alice Colbert)
- March 6 - John 10:11-15 (Rich Nixon)
- March 7 - Scripture References Psalm 19 and John 2:13-22 (Ed & Becky Renfrow)
- March 8 - Remain Faithful (Alyssa Stanley)
- March 9 - Psalm 95:1-7 (Jeremy & Mary Beth Thompson)

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!



Near the Cross



## FBC SMITHFIELD IS IN-PERSON AND ONLINE!

WORSHIP WITH US AS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE BY JOINING US:

- IN YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEETING IN-PERSON & ONLINE AT 9:45 AM
- IN IN-PERSON AND ONLINE WORSHIP ON OUR FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE PAGES AT 11 AM
- FROM 10AM-12PM ON THE RADIO FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP
- FOR YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS IN PERSON OR ON INSTAGRAM LIVE AT 6:15PM
- FOR BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON & ONLINE AT 7PM

## 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

- All Glory, Laud, & Honor
- 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
- Abide With Me
- 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)

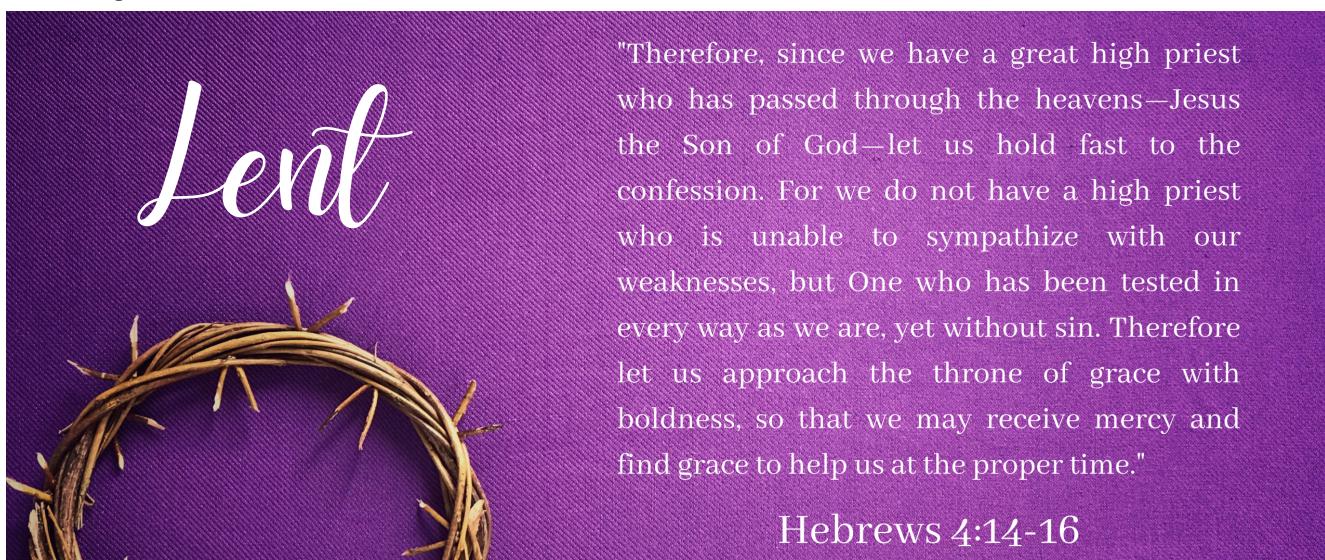
**W** for Wisdom and Witness – Pray for God’s wisdom as we face challenges and decisions brought on by the virus. How can we best prepare and respond in wisdom and love? And pray for readiness in this time of uncertainty and fear to share the Good news as God provides opportunities for us to tell others 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)

---

---

# Prayers & Praises



"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to the confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time."

Hebrews 4:14-16



## *Prayers*

- Pray for **Pope Hardee**, who is struggling with some health issues. Pray that God gives her peace and gives the doctors the right ideas of how to help.
- Pray for our schools as they return to a normal rhythm - that God would give patience and peace to everyone...teachers, parents, and children.
- Pray for our leaders - for confidence and godly wisdom.
- Pray for how God can be using us even now in this time of transition and uncertainty - may God use us and give us the grace and ingenuity to continue to move forward.



## *Praises*

- We praise God that **Covid-19 cases are down 77%** in the last six weeks! While we remain vigilant and continue to get our vaccines, we thank God that we can see His hand at work around us!
- We praise God that **Justin Hensley's** surgery has gone 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

---