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JAN. 12, 2021



# SoundFourth!

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*Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church*

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## CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

An Announcement

A Word from the Director

Prayer Guide for COVID-19

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### 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!

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## A Word from the Director

*"For you were called to be free, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. For the entire law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself."*

~Galatians 5:13-14~

*Called to be free* - that's what the apostle Paul tells us we are as God's people. Called...set apart...meant for this life. It rings reminiscent of Paul's words in his letter to the Romans: *"For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified."* God knew that we would be here - right now - in this difficult moment. He knew that we would be forced to be apart from each other. He knew that there would be so much sadness and division in our world today.

That's why he put you here.

God has put each of us here in this time and place for His glory. How we do that is something that Paul gives us in this passage - to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is something that we as Christians are called to do in our duty to the Savior. Whether the world is experiencing a pandemic or not, we always have the perfect opportunity make one of two choices - either to take our faith and sit on it, or to take that faith out to the world around us. Right now, even though we are divided from each other by disease, we still have the opportunities to reach each other. That can happen in many ways - phone calls, window visits, care packages. But more so, we have to think about - even now - what our habits in this time are preparing us to do when this pandemic ends.

God has not only freed us, but He has called others to be free through His Son's sacrifice. *"But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things!"* Let us take the message of freedom now and at the end of this pandemic in each of our lives!

In His Service, Braxton

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# 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 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)