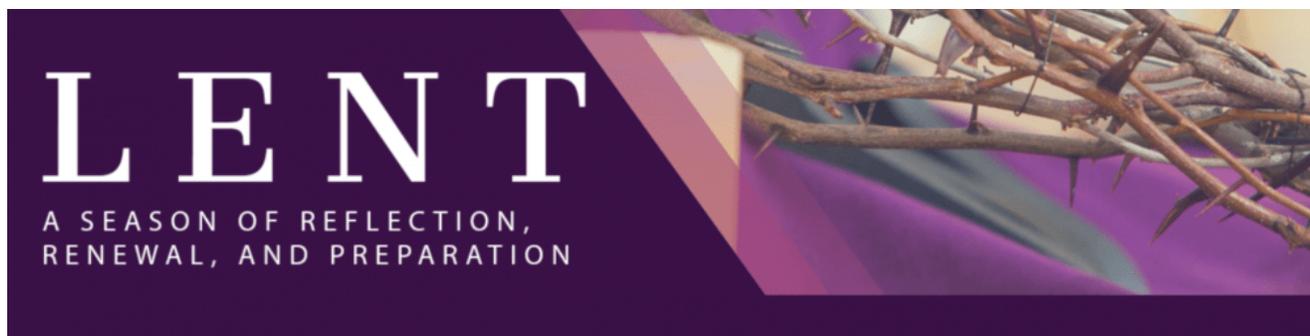


FEB. 10, 2021



SoundFourth!

Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church



CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

- A Word from the Director
- Lenten Devotional Guide
- Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday
- "With One Heart" Challenge
- Church Reopening & What That Means for Us
- Prayer Guide for COVID-19

A Word from the Director

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. After He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry. Then the tempter approached Him..."

~Matthew 4:1~

"Holy character does not avert temptation - Jesus was tempted. Like the old knights in war time, we must sleep with helmet and breastplate buckled on, for the arch-deceiver will seize our first unguarded hour to make us his prey. The Lord keep us watchful in all season, and give us a final escape from the jaw of the lion and the paw of the bear."

~Charles Spurgeon, 1834-1892 AD~

Let us now begin a journey together again that is not unfamiliar to us. It is a yearly pilgrimage from the middle of February until Easter morning through the season of Lent. And much like what our Lord experienced in the desert, we walk with Him for 40 days and nights focusing our eyes on Him as we walk that we might draw closer to Him.

Make no mistake, there will be many distractions and temptations along the way - some with good founding and some with bad founding. Some good things can become bad things when we focus on them instead of on our Lord, and we have to be constantly aware of not only ourselves, but of the enemy's movements as we walk forward into the desert with Jesus.

My heart and prayer for you all this Lenten season is that you would draw close to God and challenge yourself to give up those things that would pull you away from Him and the Word that He has left to us. Let us continue to strive forward together armed with the Word and Love of God into that desert again and draw close to Jesus in this season together. "

In His Service, Braxton

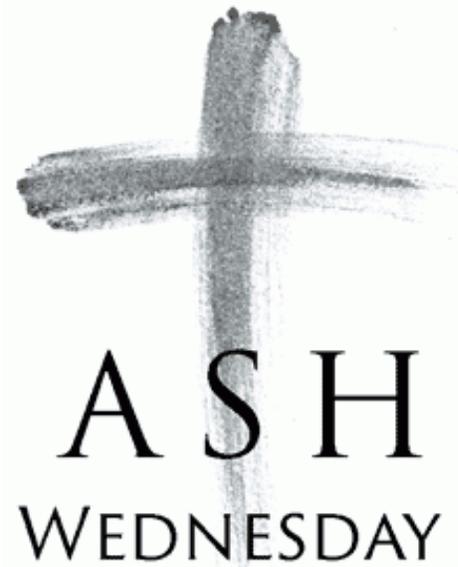
"Magnify God's Name with Worship"

Lenten Devotional Guide

I'm proud to say that over the next week, you should be receiving a Lenten Devotional Guide from the church for these upcoming weeks as we journey together through the Lenten season. Each devotional has been written by a member of our church - including many members of this choir!

Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday, February the 17th, we will be having a drive through Imposition of Ashes at the back entrance of the Ministry Center from 12:30-1:30 & 5-6pm. This is a wonderful tradition of the church, and I hope to see you all there!



"With One Heart" Challenge

In honor of Valentine's Day, our church wants to challenge each other to come together in a way that we can during Covid-19. Beginning this Sunday, February 14th, and until Sunday, February 28th, you can drive thru at the Fellowship Hall, and there will be a table set up with hearts available for you to write down what you are thankful for and what is on your heart in this year. Join us in this challenge!

Church Reopening & What That Means for Us

I'm happy to announce that the church is planning on reopening its doors starting Sunday, February 21st, for both worship and Sunday School. We want you to worship as you feel comfortable in this time - either in-person or online - and look forward to having you here either way!

The next question that follows is: what does that mean for choir? I'm happy to say that we now can determine when we restart choir. For that to happen, I need your help! Follow the link to the form [here](#), follow the link in your weekly email, or check the music website to take the poll - we need to hear your voice!



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 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)