



Holy Week 2017

*The people living in darkness have
seen a great light; on those living
in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned -Matthew 4:16*

Palm Sunday

- 8:45 a.m.** The Well Worship in Spence Hall
- 8:45 a.m.** Traditional Worship in the Chapel
- 9:45 a.m.** Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m.** Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m.** Spanish Language Ministry Worship in the Chapel
- 11:00 a.m.** Portuguese Language Ministry Worship in Spence Hall

Sunday, April 9

Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 27:20-23

We see the courage, claim, and appeal of Jesus in Matt. 21:1-11. His entry into Jerusalem evoked a drastic response from the authorities, even though Jesus had no political or military ambition, but only a desire to serve and offer up His life.

Jesus claimed that He was the Son of God, coming in the name of the Lord. The deepest meaning of Sonship was fulfilled in Him, rejecting the desire of many to be a political leader. In every generation, people must acknowledge Jesus as the Anointed One, or not receive Him at all.

The masses could see that Jesus claimed His role as Suffering Servant, defining what that meant by giving His life. His was not a kingship that ruled on an earthly throne but in the hearts of believers. His chosen symbol was not a royal throne, but a lowly colt, a sign to the crowd that he came to love, not hate, and to save, not condemn.

The crowd that welcomed Jesus a week later had an opposite reaction to Him after authorities had turned against Him (Matt. 27:20-23). Pilate was impressed with Jesus, but afraid to acknowledge His power. To avoid the responsibility of choosing a prisoner for execution, he deferred to the crowd. Their response, "Crucify Him!"

Mary Ann Lewis

Monday, April 10

Matthew 21:23-27 and 26:59-66

A fellow I know holds three degrees from one of the finest music conservatories in the world, led exemplary music programs, and provides continued professional work. Like getting Babe Ruth to pinch hit, he once served as the interim after a much less prepared, but boastful church choir director resigned. In the minutes before choir practice, one loyalist bemoaned the loss of the former leader exclaiming in the hearing of all, "After all, (the former director) was a real musician!"

My friend was hurt, but bore the slight in silence.

We can have the strangest, even ludicrous justifications for granting some authority and not others. Today's texts intimate a contest of wills over authority between Jesus and the religious leaders. Certainly the ministry and message of Jesus was confirmed in every way, but nothing convinced the religious leaders to respect Jesus.

Jesus responded that they will soon know His authority in terms unforgettable.

In a painting by artist Peter Jelinek, the High Priest is presented with deeply etched brow, eyes fixed, and countenance in troubled consideration, not at all the imperious, self-righteous steamroller witnessed in the Scriptures. The work is titled, "The High Priest Contemplates His Fate."

Only a few more scenes in the story would indeed compel the High Priest to reconsider the authority of Jesus and the implications of being so wrong.

Jim Johnson

12 Noon - Worship in Powell Chapel, Rev. Ginny Richardson

Tuesday, April 11
Matthew 23:1-23

For this long and terrible discourse we are indebted, excepting a few verses in Mark and Luke, to Matthew alone. This chapter contains the most scathing sermon Christ ever gave. Eight times He calls the Pharisees hypocrites who by their lives and very examples were shutting up the Gates of Heaven. Their words were one thing, their actions another.

Jesus warns His disciples not to look at themselves as did the disciples of the Pharisees. They were not to view their discipleship as stepping stones to some prominence or place of authority. They were not to recruit men to be their followers or to submit to their authority. They were not to take on titles or positions that would exalt themselves. His message is that we should all strive to be servants!

Apart from His "sacrificial work" on the cross, the most significant thing Jesus did on earth was to make disciples. He wrote no books, built no organization; sought no monuments. Instead, He placed the future of His earthly work entirely in the hands of His disciples. Had they failed their task as servants, then the church of Jesus Christ would not exist today.

Well done, good and faithful servant!

Bruce Hobart

Wednesday, April 12

Mark 14:12-26

How human — and yet, how Godly!

In the frantic pace of the week Jesus died, He withdrew with His disciples to observe Passover. Jesus knew what was going to happen following the Last Supper, but the disciples could not accept it. He was getting ready for what was coming. He was still preparing the disciples by acknowledging that the cup was His blood and the bread was His body (Mark 14:24). He prayed later in Gethsemane that the inevitable would not happen - a human reaction; but, He prayed "not what I will, but what You will." He knew the disciples were weak (human) and would deny Him. Yet, His purpose on Earth was being fulfilled. What an example He left us!

So, why do we observe Communion? We want to commemorate the Last Supper Jesus shared with His disciples. It is an opportunity to recognize Jesus and thank Him for all He has done for us.

How can we ever thank him enough for giving us eternal life?

Don Edwards

12 Noon - Worship in Powell Chapel, Rev. Allan Smith
No Wednesday night dinner or activities

Thursday, April 13
Matthew 26:36-46, 69-75

Prayer used to frustrate me. Younger me would think: What's the point anyway? God knows everything about me. Will prayer change God's mind? Prayer seemed silly and frankly, boring. I thought I had it all figured out. (Newsflash: I did not.)

As with most things, our best bet to figure out the truth about prayer is to look at Christ. Today's passage paints an intimate portrait of Jesus. It is heartbreaking, and confirms His humanity. The few clues we have show Jesus struggling with what was about to happen, and disappointed that His friends couldn't even stay awake for a little bit to pray with Him. In His hours of ultimate faithfulness, His disciples showed a failed faithfulness.

I think it's very gracious that we're given this picture of Him. Because we've all been there (or will be) - so far beyond flowery words and neatly-made lists of prayer requests. The place where you are longing for God to act, and also praying that if whatever is ahead of you is to be, that you'll have the courage to face it by giving God glory in the midst of it.

What obstacle keeps you from communicating with God? What can you do to overcome it?

Rev. Dane Jackson

7:30 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Worship in Sanctuary,
includes the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 14

Mark 15:21-37

Jesus came with a message of peace and love and with the promise of eternal life for those who believed in Him. He broke no laws and committed no crimes, yet, He was sentenced to die on the cross.

Today, people use the expression, "We all have our cross to bear." The cross we have to bear is not whatever we find difficult in life. The cross to bear is the same for everyone - it is dying to self.

Dying to self means resisting the temptation to do what everyone else is doing when you know it is wrong. Dying to self means putting down your phone and picking up the Bible. Dying to self means swallowing your pride and telling someone about Jesus Christ. Dying to self means doing what God wants you to do rather than doing what you want to do.

When you die to yourself and take up the cross, you will experience a new life. The Apostle Paul said, *My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*

Jesus died on the cross for our sins and to give us eternal life. We must deny ourselves and take up the cross to follow Jesus!

David Plunkett

Good Friday Worship - noon, Powel Chapel, Seven Last Words:
Dr. Curt Kruschwitz, Dr. Jonathan Kruschwitz, and Rev. Benjamin Boyd
"Father, Forgive," - Luke 23:34, Jonathan
"Today in Paradise," - Luke 23: 39-43, Ben
"Here is Your Son," - John 19:26-27, Curt
"I Thirst," - John 19:28-29, Jonathan
"My God, Why?" - Matthew 27:46, Ben
"Father, Into Thy Hands," - Luke 23:46, Curt
"It is Finished!" - John 19:30, Jonathan

Saturday, April 15

Matthew 9:35-10:1

While Jesus' followers kept quiet and inactive after the crucifixion, they must have pondered the swirl of events of the past days.

They saw their Lord betrayed by a fellow disciple, Judas Iscariot - humiliated, tortured, and crucified.

Judas. A hated agent of Satan in the ultimate betrayal.

Scripture does not point to Judas' motive in accepting money from the religious leaders to identify Jesus and lead to His arrest. We also do not know the pool of followers from which Jesus selected the twelve. We do not know what He saw in each person. But we know they were the ones who walked with Him, had years of teaching and testing. He loved them, and trained them to be the leaders of the church to come.

In the upper room, when Jesus said one of them would betray Him, the disciples did not swivel around to look at Judas as the obvious betrayer. Instead, each asked, *Is it I, Lord?* (Matthew 26:20-22). While other disciples temporarily let down their Lord, Judas alone of the twelve never repents.

We need to contemplate the question the disciples asked Jesus. Do we fail our Lord by our words, our disobedience, our giving in to the lures of evil? Do we repent and turn away from wrongdoing?

Martha Skelton

Sunday, April 16
Matthew 27:45-46; 28:1-9

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon (Matt. 27:45). Of course there was darkness. The Light of the World was going out. He made the light. Before He created, *darkness covered the face of the deep* (Gen. 1:2). Take Jesus away and the light stops shining and we walk in darkness.

Of course there was darkness. Sin and its judgment are often described in the Bible in darker tones. When Nicodemus came to Jesus, it was dark as he came from his dark separation into the light of a relationship with Jesus. Sin is a dark, foreboding thing. And on the cross, Jesus embraced the worst that humanity can offer. It was the darkness of good religion gone bad, good laws abused, and good friends who betray and deny. It was Friday, a dark, dark day.

But Sunday came! The Light shined in the darkness! The formless void that threatened to suck all that is good and holy back into the black hole of pre-creation is filled with the resurrected presence of the Christ! An angel, whose *appearance was like lightning and His clothing white as snow* (Matt. 28:3), announces that *He has been raised* (v. 6). The risen Christ is the perfect reflection of the Divine One, for *God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all* (1 John 1:5). Hallelujah! He is risen, and shining indeed!

Dr. Craig Sherouse

Easter Sunday

- 8:45 a.m.** The Well Worship in Spence Hall *
- 8:45 a.m.** Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m.** Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m.** Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary *
- 11:00 a.m.** Spanish Language Ministry Worship in the Chapel
- 11:00 a.m.** Portuguese Language Ministry Worship in Spence Hall

** All are welcome to bring a flower on Easter Sunday and help us decorate the cross during the 8:45 a.m. Well Worship and the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship.*

Ministering With You

Dr. Craig A. Sherouse, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. Raymond L. Spence, Jr., *Pastor Emeritus*

Reverend William L. Miller, Jr., *Minister of Music*

Mrs. Kathi Traficanti, *Minister of Adult Education*

Reverend Dane E. Jackson, *Minister of Students*

Reverend Katie Vance Lucas, *Minister of Children*

Mrs. Susan Hill, *Director of Creative Learning Center*

Reverend Louis C. Orsatti, *Pastor, Spanish Language Ministry*

Reverend Agayby Shehata, *Pastor, Arabic Language Ministry*

Reverend Valter Sorrentino, *Interim Pastor, Portuguese Language Ministry*

Mrs. Hilliary Larsen, *Music Associate*

Mrs. Judy Mawyer, *Children's Choir Coordinator*

Mr. Bob Mayo, *Organist*

Mrs. Ginnie Moore, *Director of Recreation Ministry*

Mrs. Kathy Driver, *Office Manager*

Mrs. Patty Dimowski, *Administrative Secretary*

Mrs. Griendora "G" McDowell, *Financial Administrator*

Mrs. Joanna Landrum, *Communication Administrative Assistant*

Ms. Cynthia Bedell, *Administrative Assistant*

Mr. Adam Schumm, *Director of Food Services*

Mr. Danny Belanger, *Facilities Manager*

Mr. Billy Petruska, *Lead Custodian*



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