

A painting of a mountain landscape. The foreground shows a hillside with a small evergreen tree and a bush. The middle ground features a valley with a winding path and more trees. The background shows distant mountains under a bright blue sky with large white clouds. The text 'Holy Week 2018' is overlaid on the top right.

# Holy Week

2 0 1 8

*On a hill far away...*

*On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.*

## *Palm Sunday*

- 8:45 a.m.** The Well Worship in the FLC Gym
- 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, March 25***  
***Mark 11:1-10, 15:9-15***

Do we really care what people think?

Mark is the shortest of the synoptic gospels and it moves quickly through the details. However, the narrative slows down significantly in Jesus' last week on earth. When Jesus comes to Jerusalem in chapter 11, He is celebrated like a king. The people lay down their coats. They cheer for their new king with palm branches in hand as Jesus enters on the back of a colt. How quickly the crowd turns from cheers of "*Hosanna*" to "*Crucify Him!*"

The perception of people is important to us, and we value the perspective of others. As "people pleasers," our goal can often be a moving target. We want people to like us, but what are we willing to sacrifice to make others happy? Sometimes it's healthy to change our minds, but should we subject our principles to public opinion?

Jesus hasn't changed in this week, but the people in Jerusalem are fickle and their perspective is easily swayed. Ours too, can be quickly altered, and we should ask ourselves why. Do we think about the values of our faith in the same way? A different perspective may be necessary, but a healthy review and inventory of beliefs can help strengthen our faith.

***Rev. Ben Brown***

***Monday, March 26***  
***Matthew 25:34-40***

One of my favorite buildings to visit in Colonial Williamsburg is the Public Gaol. An official tour guide told us that early American prisons were not conceived as houses of punishment but rather as places of detention while the accused were awaiting trial. Once a verdict was delivered, the individual was punished on the spot or released. Such was the purpose of jails in Jesus' time as well.

The point of today's passage is doing "*for the least of these.*" Specifically, as Christians, we are called to help those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, or in prison.

While the first situations are specific to basic human needs for food, drink and shelter, the last situation is different. Being in jail involves an act by a specific individual, a period of unknown anticipation, and a final judgment. I wonder if these particular verses contain a profound double meaning. Is being "in prison" a metaphor for the human condition? Does mankind's original sin and constant state of sin place us "in prison," away from fellowship with Christ? And, if so, does this command to "visit" those in prison convey the idea that we, as Christ-followers, are to minister to lost souls? Does not a visit include conversation, lifting someone's spirits, and sharing good news?

This Scripture challenges us to recognize our human condition, to give thanks for a saving faith in Jesus Christ, and to share our good news with those still "in prison."

***Paul Grossman***

**12 Noon** - Dr. James Henry Harris, Guest Speaker  
Worship in Powell Chapel, Tracey Welborn, Guest Soloist

***Tuesday, March 27***

***Job 19:23-26***

Job was a man of great spiritual integrity. He trusted God in all of his ways but suddenly like a great storm one calamity after another came upon him.

His great flocks were stolen, his family was destroyed in a mighty wind storm. His entire life had gone from one tragic event to another. Legitimate questions often come up at such times: Why me, why this, why now? In spite of all these things, Job continued to trust God.

Three of Job's friends came to offer advice, make suggestions, and question Job. Job's wife even suggested he give up on God himself! Job asked all of the questions I certainly would have asked, but Job never gave up on God, his faith in the living God.

Ever felt like Job? Everything around you goes bad. Advice is quick to come, but has so little value. Job never gave up on God and his certainty deepened as his faith and trust held. Like the sunrise that signals a new day, Job reached a new level of spiritual awareness and belief: *"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last He will stand upon the earth... then from my flesh I shall see God."*

***Dr. Ray A. Spence, Jr.***

**12 Noon** - Dr. James Henry Harris, Guest Speaker  
Worship in Powell Chapel, Kelsey Harrell. Guest Soloist

***Wednesday, March 28***  
***Matthew 26:36-45***

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' disciples fall asleep in a bout of tiredness to which many of us can relate. The Passion that Christ was enduring wasn't quite as real and meaningful to them as it was to Him.

We often find ourselves alongside others who are passionate about some form of service that just doesn't have the same meaningfulness to us. Maybe your spouse's teaching requires him or her to stay at school for long hours and come home late. Maybe your friend's desire to serve on a mission trip leads them to rebuilding after a hurricane instead of hanging out on the beach. Situations where other's passions are not our own can cause us to "fall asleep" spiritually or emotionally.

But hope is not lost. Just as the Holy Spirit awakened Christ's followers with passion of their own at Pentecost, we likewise can be awakened to the necessity, vitality, and Christlikeness of the sacrifices of those around us. During this Lenten season, pray for the passionate service of others, and ask God to show you how you might "stay awake" for them and for Jesus' good work in the world.

***Aaron Woodard***

**12 Noon** - Dr. James Henry Harris, Guest Speaker  
Worship in Powell Chapel, Barry Green, Guest Soloist  
**Wednesday Night activities as usual**

***Thursday, March 29***

***Mark 14: 27-30, 66-72***

He had been warned: "*Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times.*"

Peter, a member of Jesus' inner circle and the (self-appointed?) leader of the disciples, had a defective filter. If he thought it, he spoke it. Granted, he had confessed Jesus as Messiah, only to reject Jesus' understanding of Messiahship. On His way to Gethsemane, Jesus foretells the disciples' desertion, but Peter pledges to be with Him to the end, even to the death. But pride goes before a fall and just before dawn's early light we hear Peter swearing, "*I do not know the man!*" The rooster crows a second time and Peter breaks down and weeps.

Jesus invites all who will to follow Him, but we would do well to filter what that means before we say yes, lest we, too, deny Him through our tears.

***Rev. Robert J. Lewis***

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

***Friday, March 30***

***Numbers 21:6-9, John 3:14-18***

We always look forward to celebrating Easter and the victory we have through the resurrection of Jesus. To get to Easter, we must journey with Him on the road to the cross.

Jesus' late-night talk with Nicodemus teaches us so much about the plan of salvation. Jesus mentions the passage in Numbers where God told Moses to fashion a bronze snake and place it high on a pole. The people were constantly guilty of rebellion in those years in the wilderness and God had sent venomous snakes into the camp as a judgment for their sins. In His compassion, He made a way for those who were bitten to live. By turning and looking to the bronze snake, they would not die. No one then understood the symbolism of that bronze snake nor did Nicodemus seem to grasp Jesus' meaning that night. But later, Nicodemus was found at the cross, helping Joseph of Arimathea take down the body of Jesus for burial.

I imagine him looking up at the cross, and remembering Jesus' words of being lifted high not to a place of honor but of curse. Jesus had chosen to take our place on the cross and bear the curse of our sins. We look to the cross and know that we may live and not die because of His sacrifice.

***John Austin***

**Good Friday Worship** - noon, Powel Chapel, Seven Last Words

***"Father, Forgive,"*** - Luke 23:34

***"Today in Paradise,"*** - Luke 23: 39-43

***"Here is Your Son,"*** - John 19:26-27

***"I Thirst,"*** - John 19:28-29

***"My God, Why?"*** - Matthew 27:46

***"Father, Into Thy Hands,"*** - Luke 23:46

***"It is Finished!"*** - John 19:30

***Saturday, March 31***  
***John 20:19-29***

Mary Magdalene has seen Him. Peter and the other disciple have inspected the burial cloths and the empty tomb. They tell the other disciples. Christ is risen! But fear has locked the disciples in a room where they are paralyzed with anxiety, grief, depression, and lack of direction. Suddenly, Jesus appears saying, "*Peace be unto you.*" Rejoicing, disciples clamor to touch His hands, His side. Again, Jesus says, "*Peace be unto you. Even as the Father sent me, so I send you.*" Jesus has brought peace to the rejoicing, but still anxious and fearful, disciples. He gives them an extraordinary mission. He charges them to become His body, do His work. He equips them with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Eight days later, Jesus again appears to the disciples who are in the locked room. Thomas, absent previously, is there. Unconvinced at what he hears, Thomas needs to touch the hands and side of Jesus before saying, "*My Lord and my God.*"

With the gift of peace, the challenge of an extraordinary mission, and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the disciples dispersed across the known world. Today, followers of Jesus have those same gifts. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

***Corella Ricketson***

## ***Sunday, April 1***

### ***I Corinthians 15:12-22***

At the risk of sounding like the “Grinch that Stole Easter,” what is the absolute worst thought you can come up with this morning? Nuclear war with North Korea? Cancer? Death of a family member? All are bad thoughts, but none as bad as what Paul addresses in this passage, “*If Christ has not been raised*” (v. 14). For a Christian, that has to be the worst thought possible.

The Corinthians, the most dysfunctional church of the New Testament period, had a substantial group within it that did not believe in the resurrection. How can you even be a congregation with such disbelief? How can you be a Christian?

One of my favorite college professors played the “devil’s advocate” in class and raised questions about the veracity of Christ’s resurrection. He did not resolve his questions in the class but left us with them over the weekend before he offered his resolution. It was a miserable weekend for me. But he made his point, and it has lasted for almost forty-five years: I came out of that weekend deeply believing that, in fact, “*Christ has been raised from the dead*” (v. 20)!

A dead Christ? What an awful thought. Paul says it is a six-times-over awful thought: If Christ has not been raised, then: What we preach is in vain; our faith is also vanity; we are liars; we are still in our sins; the dead are dead and gone; and we are hopeless. That is the absolute worst thought you could have!

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead! That is the best thought there ever could be. It changes everything - what we believe, what we say, how we live, how we hope, and how we face death.

A very exact layman, a newspaper editor, was asked to conduct a friend’s funeral. So he turned to the New Testament and researched how Jesus conducted a funeral. And he discovered that Jesus never conducted a single funeral. All he dealt with were resurrections!

*“Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”*

***Dr. Craig A. Sherouse***

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

*- Words & music  
by George Bennard*

## ***Easter Sunday***

- 8:45 a.m.** The Well Worship in the FLC Gym
- 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 in the Sanctuary Courtyard.*

## ***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 Ben Brown, *Minister of Students*  
Reverend Katie Vance Lucas, *Minister of Children*  
Mr. Forrest White *Interim Minister of Missions*  
Mrs. Susan Hill, *Director of Creative Learning Center*  
Mrs. Ainsleigh Gaskins, *Assistant 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*  
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. Olivia Freeman, *Communication Administrative Assistant*  
Ms. Christina Taylor, *Administrative Assistant*  
Mr. Adam Schumm, *Director of Food Services*  
Mr. Danny Belanger, *Facilities Manager*  
Mr. Billy Petruska, *Lead Custodian*



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