



Rev. Ronald L. Bowens
Pastor



FRIENDSHIP
BAPTIST CHURCH

3375 Church Lane Duluth, GA 30096

APRIL 2021

He Is Risen

Vol. 9, Issue 4

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE

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CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter
- 27 FBC COVID Vaccination Event 9am-2pm FLC

MAY

- 6 National Day of Prayer
- 9 Mother's Day
- 31 Memorial Day

Due to the COVID-19 virus, all in-person services, activities and events except the Friendship Market have been cancelled until further notice. Please visit fbcduluth.org for more information. Stay safe!



Resurrection in a nutshell is bringing back to life. The synonyms for resurrection are:

Reappearance, rebirth, restoration, resurgence, revival, reawakening and return to life. So, we see it does not only apply to bringing back a person to life.

From a religious concept, it is used in two distinct respects:

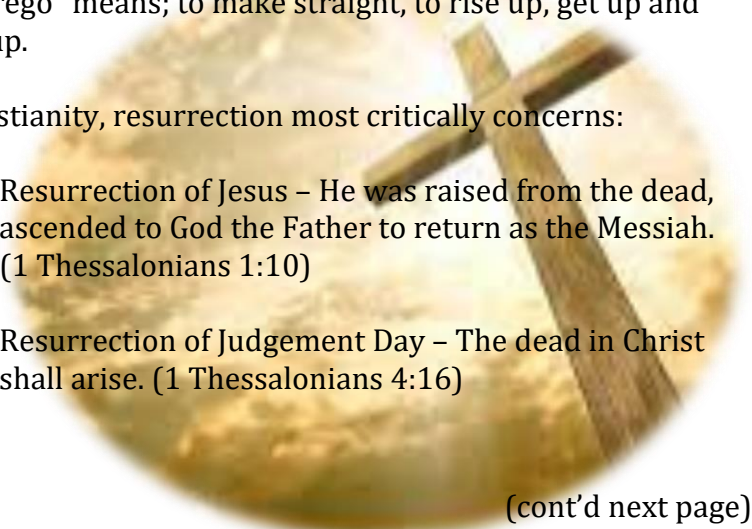
1. Belief in the resurrection of individual souls that are current and ongoing.
2. Belief in a singular resurrection of the dead at the end of the world.

The death and resurrection of Jesus, is the central focus of Christianity. There are also the scientific examples of people dying, pronounced clinically dead and then life is restored to them. This is called the Lazarus syndrome.

Resurrection from the Latin noun "resurrection-onis" and the verb, "rego" means; to make straight, to rise up, get up and stand up.

In Christianity, resurrection most critically concerns:

1. Resurrection of Jesus – He was raised from the dead, ascended to God the Father to return as the Messiah. (1 Thessalonians 1:10)
2. Resurrection of Judgement Day – The dead in Christ shall arise. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)



(cont'd next page)

(Resurrection cont'd)

While most people, especially Christians focus on Resurrection as a human body that is dead, coming back to life, let's look at resurrection in other areas of our lives. We can experience resurrection in:

1. Marriages
2. Finances
3. Jobs
4. Family
5. Health
6. Our Spiritual Walk

Any situation in our lives that seem dead can be resurrected by fasting and prayer. Matthew 21:22 says, *"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."* You need to ask God in prayer, pray according to His will and pray in faith.

When you think your marriage is ending, don't just give up and run to the nearest attorney, commit the situation to God, ask Him for direction, trust God to resurrect the desire for each other and see how He comes through for you. Same concept applies to Finances, Jobs, Family and Health. I will walk you through Spiritual Walk.

When you reach the point where you don't want to fellowship with the saints, you don't want to pray and go to church you have become spiritually dead. For God to resurrect you spiritually, you have to make sacrifices. Start with playing worship songs, play them until it becomes a habit. Sing along with the songs, at some point you will not remember the words but the music will still be bursting in you. Make up your own words, tell God you love Him, tell Him how good and awesome He is. Pretty soon your song will become worship and praise. Things will start happening within you. The pruning process has now started and old things and habits are being cut away for the new life to increase in you. You will soon start praying and praising until you can't wait for Wednesdays to come around to go to Bible Studies and Sundays for church and Sunday School.

We have to learn to praise our way out of dead situations for Resurrection to take place and for this to happen, we need to prune the dead areas of our lives so new growth can take place.

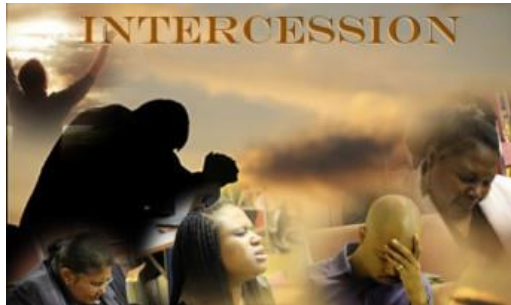
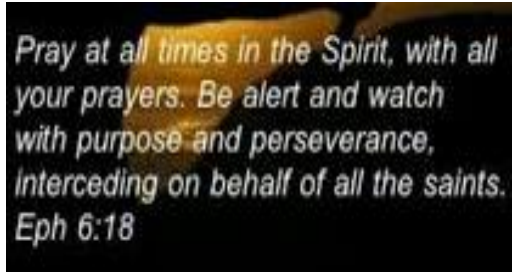


Submitted by Hyacinth Chung
Communications Ministry

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

JESUS SAID UNTO HER, I AM
THE RESURRECTION, AND
THE LIFE: HE THAT
BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH
HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL
HE LIVE: AND WHOSOEVER
LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN
ME SHALL NEVER DIE.
BELIEVEST THOU THIS?
JOHN 11:25-26

Prayer List



REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN WITH PRAYER AND CALLS WHILE THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT

Bro. Willie Benton	Sis. Doris Doyle	Sis. Thelma Matthews	Bro. Antone Smith
Min. Karen Blacknell	Sis. Essie Foy	Bro. Laceem McCall	Sis. Latisha Smith
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell	Sis. Marlon German	Bro. Quintrell Melancon	Bro. Xavier Stephens
Dea. Willie Blake	Sis. Barbara Hall	Sis. Roxanne Motley	Sis. Tiffany Stovall
Sis. Joyce Brooks	Sis. Crystal Ingram	Evg. Valerie Montaque	Sis. Mabel Thomas
Sis. HaLynn Brown	Sis. Charlotte Hayes	Sis. Mary Myers	Bro. Seth Tyler
Sis. Sherie Brown	Bro. Emanuel Hazell	Sis. Ruthie Nelson	Sis. April Walker
Bro. Dwayne Bynum	Sis. Dorothy Jamison	Sis. Gloria Peters	Rev. Dwight Wilkerson
Bro. Nicholas Caldwell	Bro. Patrick Jones	Bro. Garvin Potts	Min. Floyd Williams
Sis. Sherita Caldwell	Miss Quincie Joyner	Sis. Catherine Pressley	Dea. Clendon Wilson
Bro. Tyler Caldwell	Bro. Dennis Kimmey	Sis. Carrie Rawls	Sis. Sadie Wilson
S. Erika Crosby	Sis. Mabel Lawrence	Sis. Peggy Rogers	Bro. Victor Winston, Jr.
Sis. Nekka Dean	Dea. Jack Leverett	Dea. Clarence Slaughter	



If you need prayer, dial
866-875-8245





DOCTORS NURSES TRUCKERS
HOSPITAL STAFF POLICE SERVICES
DOCTOR'S OFFICE STAFF PARAMEDICS
SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND STAFF
DENTISTS AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCIES
FIRE DEPARTMENTS MAIL CARRIERS
SOCIAL WORKERS SANITATION WORKERS
CHILDCARE PROVIDERS GAS STATION STAFF
PUBLIC TRANSIT WORKERS DELIVERY DRIVERS
GROCERY CLERKS AND STAFF
RESTAURANT AND TAKE-OUT STAFF

**AND ANYONE PUTTING THEIR HEALTH AT
RISK DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.
MAY GOD BLESS AND PROTECT YOU!**

YOU'RE AWESOME!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



Friendship Baptist Church Outreach Ministry *is here to **HELP** during these challenging times!*

Drive through to get **FREE** groceries:
(Meat, Produce, Dairy & More)

When: Fridays 3:00pm-4:00pm
Saturdays 11:30am-12:30pm

Where: Friendship Baptist Church, Pastor Ronald L. Bowens
3375 Church Lane, Duluth, GA 30096
Telephone: 770-497-8227
Email: friendshipduluth@att.net



FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

For more information about the Outreach Ministry, please contact:

Diana McGhee

404-312-1232

dianaymcghee@bellsouth.net

or

Catherine Stafford

678-983-7587

HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RN/BSN, Ministry Leader



April is Parkinson Awareness Month



Parkinson's Disease is often misunderstood by many, and for those who have it, it can be hard to get the resources you need to handle everyday life. This month is all about bringing awareness to this condition, allowing those who have it to seek help and for those who don't to learn more about what it means to have it.

History of Parkinson's Awareness Month

Parkinson's Disease has been around since the times of the Egyptians, but many of the sources before the 12th century would describe symptoms of PD, but would not be able to explain any more than that. Such sources include Egyptian scriptures, the Bible, and the Roman Empire. It wasn't until the 19th century when James Parkinson would publish an essay describing this condition that Parkinson's Disease would exist as a term, even if it didn't immediately get recognition. It wasn't until 40 years later that the essay would get noticed. The 20th century involved the research of scientists from all over the world, but as doctors would prescribe treatments, a cure couldn't be found.

One celebrity that is known to have Parkinson's Disease is Michael J. Fox, a Canadian who reached fame through his charismatic personality in some of his most famous acting roles throughout the 80's and 90's. His diagnosis in 1991 inspired him to help, founding the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research to help others learn about the disease and find ways of managing and treating this condition. Parkinson's Awareness Month is part of the core of foundations such as the MJF Foundation, and this month-long holiday encourages people to learn about the disease, donate to foundations to help with research and support those who do have it in any way they can.

"Stem cell research is the key to developing cures for degenerative conditions like Parkinson's and motor neuron disease from which I and many others suffer. The fact that the cells may come from embryos is not an objection, because the embryos are going to die anyway." Stephen Hawking Source: Parkinson.org

YOUR HEALTH IS A LIFE-LONG JOURNEY:

- (1) Take care of your body and mind;
- (2) Get and stay active;
- (3) Manage a healthy weight; and
- (4) Practice good sleep habits.

Are you still looking to get a COVID-19 Vaccination?

Friendship Baptist Church will host a Vaccination Event on Tuesday, April 27th from 9 am – 2 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. To register, please send an email to fbcduluth@att.net with your name and contact information. Someone will contact you for additional information.

COVID INFORMATION & PREVENTION TIPS



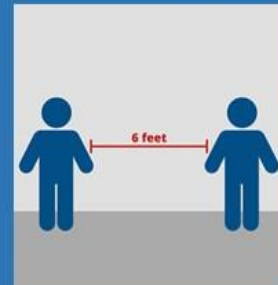
STAY AT HOME
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE



WASH HANDS
WITH SOAP OR USE
60%+ ALCOHOL
HAND SANITIZER



WEAR A MASK
WHEN OUT
AND ABOUT



STAY 6 FT APART
DO YOUR
PART

COVID-19 has a wide range of mild to severe symptoms which may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

TO ACCESS THE SYMPTOM CHECKER GO TO

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

REMEMBER WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

TOGETHER WE CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

FREE DRIVE-THROUGH COVID-19 TESTING

Appointments available Monday-Saturday.

Call to schedule.

770-513-5631

Call center open Mon-Fri 8a-7p and Sat 9a-4p.



Individuals must have an appointment to be tested and should have transportation to and from the test site.

WWW.GNRHEALTH.COM/COVID-19-INFO



COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

- All individuals 16+ are eligible for the vaccine
- Walk-ins cannot be accommodated.
- Appointments cannot be made by visiting or calling our health centers.
- Appointments are required for scheduling online only at this time.

**Schedule an appointment for the vaccine online
at one of the website below**

<https://www.gnrhealth.com/covid-vaccine-scheduling>

<https://myvaccinegeorgia.com/>

New Vaccine and Testing Location:

Former Sears – Gwinnett Place Mall
2100 Pleasant Hill Road
Duluth, GA 30096

**Drive-Thru Testing. These appointments are not for
COVID vaccine.**

Demand for COVID-19 testing is extremely high. All testing is performed by appointment only through Mako Medical. Pre-register at:

<https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=4016>

Testing is available at no cost to you. The Health Department will file your insurance, if available, to cover the cost of the test and support continued testing; however, this will not result in a charge for you.

Individuals must be over 12 months old to be tested at one of our locations.

Appointments can be made up to three days in advance.

If you have questions about Health Department testing locations, please call 770-513-5631.

FBC USHERS' MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY



“Standing in Excellence”

FBC USHER'S MINISTRY OFFICERS

President - Isabelle Robinson
 Vice President - Rosena Heyward
 Secretary - Vanessa White
 Treasurer - Lula Tally
 Chaplain - Irene Cassell
 Ministry Advisor - Deacon Clyde Johnson (deceased)

TEAM LEADERS

1st Sunday - JoAnne Williams
 2nd Sunday - Henry Richardson
 3rd Sunday - Isabelle Robinson
 4th Sunday - Rosena Heyward

MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS

Mary Anderson	Tyler Commodore	Frances Johnson	Brandon Owens	Emma Stephens
Thaddeus Bell	Angelica Cummings	Jackie Lash	Raymond Poole	Lula Tally
Rita Bowens	Michael Dibrell	Darion Malone	Jewell Powell	Agnes Taylor
Julia Brown	Ethel Emery	Martice Moore	Joseph Reeves	Quentrance West
Alfred Cassell	Patricia Harris	Yolanda Morgan	Henry Richardson	Vanessa White
Irene Cassell	Randy Harrell	Desmond Nagbe	Israel Richardson	Marvin Whitfield
Demetra Casseus	Kevin Hayes	Jada Nagbe	Latasha Richardson	Sharyn Whitfield
Hyacinth Chung	Rosena Heyward	Jordan Nagbe	Isabelle Robinson	Bobby Williams
Ashley Clark	Kennedy Horton	Eugenia Nah	Michael Sharpless	Carolyn Williams
Brenda Commodore	Barbara Johnson	Rose Nolan	Mikayla Sharpless	JoAnne Williams



This Is The Reason Why People Celebrate Easter

SARA COUGHLIN, REFINERY29, MARCH 27, 2018 (REPRINT)

Easter Sunday, as it's known in Christianity, is actually considered the *most* important and sacred Sunday of the entire year. It marks the anniversary of Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven — and observing this holiday can teach Christians a lot more about faith than bunnies.

Easter arrives at the end of Holy Week and right after Good Friday, which commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and death. Where Good Friday is essentially a day of mourning, Easter celebrates Jesus' evasion of death. It's not uncommon for Christians to greet each other by saying "Christ has risen" in the same way they'd say "Merry Christmas."

This greeting doesn't just acknowledge the belief that Jesus rose from His grave. It's also used as a confirmation of faith. The Bible states that if Jesus hadn't risen, Christian preaching and faith would have been "in vain" or even "empty." In other words, the belief that Christians have in Jesus' divinity is rooted in the moment of His resurrection.

Without that part of the Easter story, Jesus simply dies and that's it. According to the Bible, Jesus' death was a sacrifice for the sins of others, but His resurrection represents something even more powerful: the potential for rebirth, salvation, and renewal of faith.

That's why Easter celebrations are preceded by Lent (a time of abstinence and penance), the Easter Vigil (when new believers are baptized), and, sometimes, the sacrament of confession. After a season of shedding bad habits and resisting temptations, Easter is the perfect opportunity for Christians to recommit to their beliefs.

So, despite the pastel-colored decorations and kids' games, Easter is a pretty serious holiday at its core. It celebrates Christians' belief in the divine power of Jesus and the hope that loss leads to something new. This doesn't mean it's all gloom and doom, but Easter definitely calls for some solemn reflection among observant Christians. Luckily, many are able to make time for church services *and* an egg hunt or two.

Though the Journey May Be Long

Written by Victoria Ghoston, FBC Drama Ministry Lead Servant



Last week, I ordered a new book from Amazon. I was SO excited to receive it, and to start spending some time reading again. I was picturing my days and planning out how I would find some time to squeeze in a few moments for myself to just relax and read. Well, the book arrived in the most beat up box I've ever seen. That box looked like it had been kicked and tossed around, and then stomped a few times for good measure! I'm no stranger to having things delivered; in fact, the delivery guys and I are on a first name basis. However, I was very disappointed with the way this particular delivery showed up—so disappointed that I just left the box sitting by the front door for several days. I would walk by and just shake my head at the box's condition. Meanwhile, my four year old was also eyeing the package but for a very different reason. She was imagining all the possibilities for that old beat up box instead of judging it like I was.

Finally, one day she said, "Mom, let's see what you have in that box. I bet it's something really cool!" It then dawned on me: yes, there is something really cool in there, and I should be enjoying it instead of pouting about how it arrived! So, we opened it; and she ran off happily with that beat up old box. I took a look at the book inside, and it was in pristine condition. Not so much as a scuff or bent corner. I must admit, I felt pretty silly. I spent so much time reeling how bad the box appeared, that I didn't even pause long enough to actually check the most important part—the package inside. After all, that's what I had been waiting for, right? Dreams of some sweet quiet me-time moments were hinging on the arrival of that book. So how did I get so easily distracted by...the box?! Honestly, I was so wrapped up in how terrible "the journey" must've been for my poor \$10 Amazon order that I forgot to actually appreciate and celebrate that it ARRIVED. I almost missed out on an amazing book, because I was too distracted by *how* it arrived...imagine that.

Appreciation is one of those things that's very hard to grasp when you're in the thick of it. Oftentimes we find ourselves getting so wrapped up in the "hows and whys" that it's almost impossible to muster up any appreciation when things aren't going well. When I reflect over the past 12 months, it still feels like a big cloud of disbelief at times. The uncertainty and fear have taken its toll on us all; and it has been enough to make even the most devout believer waiver a bit. The losses have been and still are overwhelming. It is hard to "appreciate" tough times.

Thinking of that old beat up box led me to feel as if someone put us all in a big box, taped up all the sides so that there's no escaping, and sent us on what has been the bumpiest, most alarming journey of our lives. The box has been tossed around, kicked, shoved with little to no regard; and we're just bouncing around inside waiting and praying for the turbulence to stop. Clinging to the word that says "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10)" and merely just surviving. From the outside, it appeared as if the contents of the box should be in shreds, no longer good for any use. So, imagine my exact words were "Thank you, Jesus!" when I retrieved the perfectly untouched book from inside that tattered old box. Shaken, but not shattered. Kicked around, but still standing.

Are you following me? I'm convinced that God is calling us to trust Him and to consider WHERE He's taking us rather than HOW we're getting there. Of course, the journey is important—lessons to be learned, faith to be strengthened—and, it may be very difficult; but the destination will be awe-inspiring!

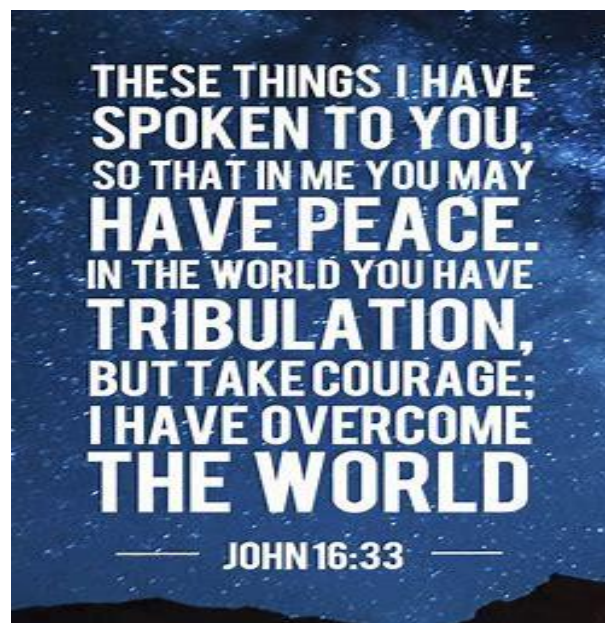
(The Journey cont'd)

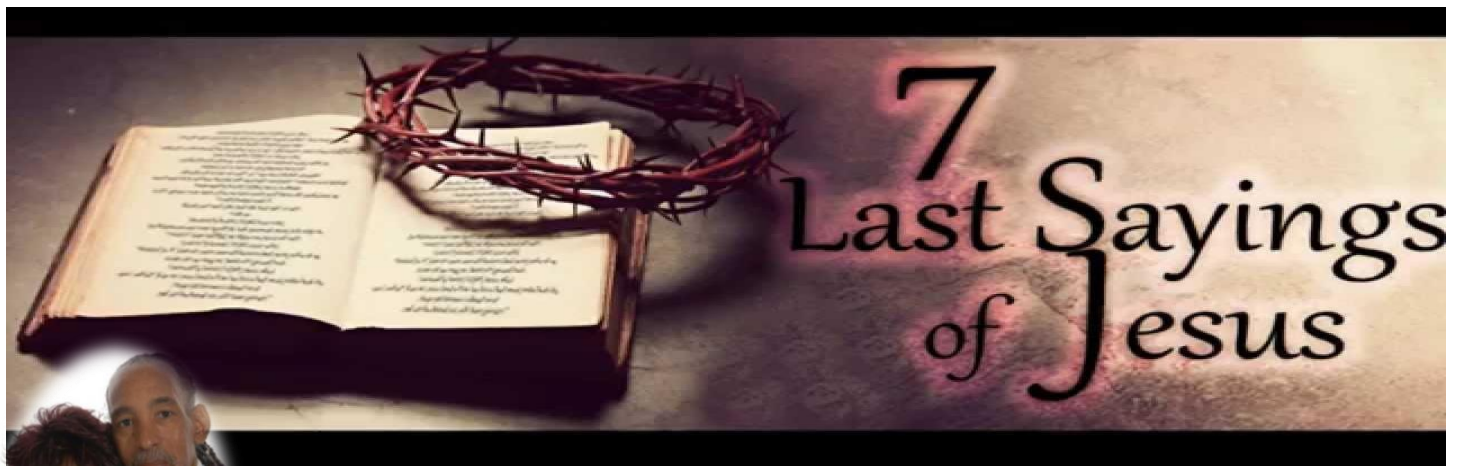
We are on this journey for a reason. There may very well be different reasons, but definitely reasons all ordained by God. We can only see a little of the road ahead of us. We can't see what is around the curve or what awaits us at the next intersection; but our faith sustains us and has brought us this far! The beauty in a journey this long and this tumultuous is that we have a traveling companion. One who never leaves our side. No matter how bumpy the road, or how beat up, kicked around, and disheveled we are when we arrive. We WILL arrive. My brothers and sisters, don't miss the rainbow at the end of this storm because you were too focused on how loud the thunder has been and how close the lightning has struck. We serve a God that is bigger than any journey we will ever face.

I'd like to leave you with this thought: there was a man who took His own journey. He arrived to His destination beaten, battered and bruised. What if He had quit along the way? He very well could have. We know that Jesus is all-powerful. He could have put an end to His misery and made His journey much less gruesome at any moment. However, His journey was a part of the divine plan. Without the betrayal, there would be no arrest. Without the arrest, there would be no persecution. Without the persecution, there would be no crucifixion. Without the crucifixion, there would be no cross. And without the cross, there would be no salvation. So, you see, the journey was cruel. It was grim. Nevertheless, the outcome was astonishing! Heaven-sent! Miraculous! (Praise Break!!)

Here we are, celebrating another Easter without being able to physically worship and fellowship with one another. Of course, we all miss that fellowship; and one day we will be together again. However, absolutely nothing has changed about the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A year away from the church building can't change it. A pandemic can't change it. Days that have been filled with loss, uncertainty and concern cannot change it. In fact, be encouraged by the story of *THE* journey that was far worse than you or I could ever imagine; but *that* journey yielded the Greatest Gift and sacrifice of all. My prayer for you is strength to keep holding on. There is light shining through. I hope that you feel the warmth of God's light and continue clinging to His unchanging word.

"Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer." – Romans 12:12





By Rev. Ken and Minister Karen Blacknell

Christ Jesus died on the Cross to redeem mankind, to save us from our sins because of His love for us. As recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the Holy Bible, Jesus Christ was mocked, scorned, and condemned to death by Pontius Pilate, He carried His Cross up the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem to Calvary, was nailed to the cross, and hung between two common thieves. He suffered an indescribable end, recalled by the Church on Good Friday of Holy Week. One may meditate on the Passion of Christ by reflecting on His Seven Sayings on the Cross.

Here are His **Seven Sayings**, the last seven expressions of Jesus Christ on the Cross recorded in Scripture.

THE FIRST WORDS

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Luke 23:34

Jesus of Nazareth is looking down from the cross just after He was crucified between two thieves. He sees the soldiers who have mocked, scourged, and tortured Him, and who have just nailed Him to the cross. He probably remembers those who have sentenced Him - Caiaphas and the high priests of the Sanhedrin. Pilate realized it was out of envy that they handed Him over (Matthew 27:18, Mark 15:10). But is Jesus not also thinking of His Apostles who have deserted him, to Peter who has denied Him three times, to the fickle crowd who only days before praised Him on His entrance to Jerusalem, and then days later demanded His crucifixion?

Is He also thinking of us, who daily forget Him in our lives?

Does He react angrily? No! At the height of His physical suffering, His love prevails, and He asks His Father to forgive! Could there ever be greater irony? Jesus asks His Father to forgive, but it is by His very Sacrifice on the Cross that mankind can be forgiven!

Right up to His final hours on earth, Jesus preaches forgiveness. He teaches forgiveness in the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matthew 6:12). When asked by Peter, how many times should we forgive someone, Jesus answers seventy times seven (Matthew 18:21-22). He forgives the paralytic at Capernaum (Mark 2:3-12), the sinful woman who anointed Him in the home of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:37-48), and the adulteress caught in the act and about to be stoned (John 8:1-11). During the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Jesus tells them to drink of the cup: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28). And even following His Resurrection, His first act is to commission His disciples to forgive: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

(Seven Last Sayings of Jesus cont'd)

THE SECOND WORDS

Verily, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:43

Now it is not just the religious leaders or the soldiers that mock Jesus, but even one of the thieves, a downward progression of mockery. But the thief on the right speaks up for Jesus, explaining the two thieves are receiving their just due, whereas "this man has done nothing wrong." Then, turning to Jesus, he asks, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). What wonderful faith this repentant sinner has in Jesus - far more than the doubting Thomas, one of His own Apostles. Ignoring His own suffering, Jesus responds with mercy in His second word, living out His own Beatitude, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*"

The second word again is about forgiveness, this time directed to a sinner. Just as the first word, this Biblical expression is found only in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus shows His Divinity by opening heaven for a repentant sinner - such generosity to a man that only asked to be remembered! This expression offers us hope for salvation, for if we turn our hearts and prayers to Him and accept His forgiveness, we will also be with Jesus Christ at the end of our lives.

THE THIRD WORDS

"Woman, behold thy son."

Then saith He to the disciple, "Behold thy mother!"

John 19:26-27

Jesus and Mary are together again, at the beginning of His ministry in Cana and now at the end of His public ministry at the foot of the Cross. John is the only disciple to record Our Lord's mother Mary at the Cross. The Lord refers to His mother as *woman* at the Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1-11).

What sorrow must fill Mary's heart! How she must have felt meeting her Son as He carried the Cross on the Via Dolorosa. And then she had to watch Him being nailed to the Cross. Once again, a sword pierces Mary's soul: we are reminded of the prophecy of Simeon at the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:35).

The loved ones of Jesus are with Him in John's Gospel. There are four at the foot of the cross, Mary His Mother, John, the disciple whom He loved, His mother's sister Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. He addresses His third word to His mother Mary and John, the only eyewitness of the Gospel writers.

Jesus again rises above the occasion as He cares for the ones that love Him. The good son that He is, Jesus is concerned about looking after His mother.

THE FOURTH WORDS

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34

This was the only expression of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. Both Gospels related that it was in the ninth hour, after 3 hours of darkness, that He cried out this fourth word. The ninth hour was three o'clock in Judea. Jesus of Nazareth fulfills the Messianic prophecy of the Suffering Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 53: 2, Mark 15:28, Luke 24:46). After the fourth Word, Mark related with a horrible sense of finality, "And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last" (Mark 15:37). One is struck by the anguished tone of this expression in contrast to the first three words of Jesus. He feels separated from His Father.

This cry is from the painful heart of the human Jesus who must feel deserted by His Father and the Holy Spirit, not to mention His earthly companions the disciples, who "all left Him and fled" (Matthew 26:56, Mark 14:50). As if to

(Seven Last Sayings of Jesus cont'd)

emphasize His loneliness, Mark (15:40) even has His loved ones "looking on from afar." Jesus is now all alone, and He must face death by himself. But is not this exactly what happens to all of us when we die? We too are all alone at the time of death! Jesus completely lives the human experience as we do, and by doing so, frees us from the clutches of sin.

His fourth Word is the opening line of Psalm 22, and thus His cry from the Cross recalls the cry of Israel, and of all innocent persons who suffer. Psalm 22 of David makes a striking prophecy of the crucifixion of the Messiah at a time when crucifixion was not known to exist: "They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have numbered all my bones" (Psalm 22:16-17). The Psalm continues: "They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots" (Psalm 22:18).

There cannot be a more dreadful moment in the history of man as this moment. Jesus who came to save us is crucified, and He realizes the horror of what is happening and what He now is enduring. He is about to be engulfed in the raging sea of sin. Evil triumphs, as Jesus admits: "But this is your hour" (Luke 22:53). But it is only for a moment. The burden of all the sins of humanity for a moment overwhelm the humanity of our Savior.

But does this not have to happen? Does this not have to occur if Jesus is to save us? It is in defeat of His humanity that the Divine plan of His Father will be completed. It is by His death that we are redeemed. "For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humans, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5-6). *"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: By whose stripes ye were healed."* 1 Peter 2:24

THE FIFTH WORDS

"I thirst."

John 19:28

The fifth word of Jesus is His only human expression of His physical suffering. Jesus is now in shock. The wounds inflicted upon Him in the scourging, the crowning with thorns, losing blood on the three-hour walk through the city of Jerusalem on the Via Dolorosa to Golgotha, and the nailing upon the cross are now taking their toll.

The Gospel of John first refers to thirst when Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. After first asking for "a drink," He answers the woman, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14). This passage implies there is more than just physical thirst.

Jesus also thirsts in a spiritual sense. He thirsts for love. He thirsts for the love of His Father, who has left Him unaided during this dreadful hour when He must fulfill His mission all alone. And He thirsts for the love and salvation of His people, humans. Jesus practiced what He preached: *"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:12-13

THE SIXTH WORDS

*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, "It is finished;"
and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost.*

John 19:30

The Gospel of John recalls the sacrifice of the Passover Lamb in Exodus 12 in this passage. The soldiers offered wine on a sprig of hyssop to the Lord. Hyssop is a small plant that was used to sprinkle the blood of the Passover Lamb on the doorposts of the Hebrews (Exodus 12:22). John's Gospel related that it was the Day of Preparation, the day *before* the actual Sabbath Passover, that Jesus was sentenced to death (Exodus 19:14) and sacrificed on the

(Seven Last Sayings of Jesus cont'd)

Cross (John 19:31). John continues in John 19:33-34: *"But when they came to Jesus and saw He was already dead, they did not break His legs,"* recalling the instruction in Exodus 12:46 concerning the Passover Lamb. He died at the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon), about the same time as the Passover lambs were slaughtered in the Temple. Christ became the Paschal or Passover Lamb, as noted by St. Paul: *"For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed"* (First Corinthians 5:7). The innocent Lamb was slain for our sins, so that we might be forgiven. It is now a fait accompli. The sixth word is Jesus' recognition that His suffering is over, and His task is completed. Jesus is obedient to the Father and gives His love for mankind by redeeming us with His death on the Cross.

And the Gospels as a group captured this paradox. The Synoptic Gospels narrated the horror of the event - the agony in the garden, the abandonment by His Apostles, the trial before the Sanhedrin, the intense mockery and torture heaped upon Jesus, His suffering all alone, the darkness over the land, and His death, starkly portrayed by both Matthew (Matthew 27:47-51) and Mark (15:33-38).

In contrast, the passion of Jesus in the Gospel of John expresses His Kingship and proves to be His triumphant road to glory. John presents Jesus as directing the action the entire way. The phrase "It is finished" carries a sense of accomplishment. In John, there is no trial before the Sanhedrin, but rather Jesus is introduced at the Roman trial as "Behold your King!" (John 19:14). Jesus is not stumbling or falling as in the Synoptic Gospels, but the way of the Cross is presented with majesty and dignity, for "Jesus went out bearing His own Cross" (John 19:17). And in John, the inscription at the head of the cross is pointedly written "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews" (John 19:19).

When Jesus died, He "handed over" the Spirit. Jesus remained in control to the end, and it is He who handed over His Spirit. One should not miss the double entendre here, for this may also be interpreted as His death brought forth the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of John gradually reveals the Holy Spirit. Jesus mentions *living water* in John 4:10 and during the Feast of Tabernacles refers to living water as the Holy Spirit in John 7:37-39. At the Last Supper, Christ announces He would ask the Father to send "another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17). The word Advocate is also translated as Comforter, Helper, Paraclete, or Counselor. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (John 14:26).

THE SEVENTH WORDS

*Jesus when He had cried with a loud voice, He said,
"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46*

The seventh word of Jesus is from the Gospel of Luke, and is directed to the Father in heaven, just before He dies. Jesus recalls Psalms 31:5 - "Into thy hands I commend my spirit; thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God."

Jesus was obedient to His Father to the end, and His final word before His death on the Cross was a prayer to His Father.

The relationship of Jesus to the Father is revealed in the Gospel of John, for He remarked, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30), and again at the Last Supper: "Do you not believe I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing His works" (John 14:10). And He can return: "I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father" (John 16:28). Jesus fulfills His own mission and that of His Father on the Cross:

***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16***

“WERE YOU THERE”

History

Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord) is an American [spiritual](#) that was first printed in 1899. There are some of the more recent plantation hymns which have added an element of culture without diminishing religious fervor. One of the best of these is "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" It dwells on the details of the crucifixion, and the separate stanzas add only a single line each to the song. It is a tender and beautiful hymn, the climax of its effect depending largely on the hold and slur on the exclamation "Oh!" with which the third line begins, and the repetition and expression of the word "*tremble! tremble! tremble!*" —William Eleazar Barton, *Old Plantation Hymns* (1899)

"Were You There" was likely composed by [enslaved African-Americans](#) in the 19th century. **It was first published in William Eleazar Barton's 1899 Old Plantation Hymns.** In 1940, it was included in the Episcopal Church hymnal, making it the first spiritual to be included in any major American hymnal. As reported in Howard Thurman's autobiography, the song was one of Mahatma Gandhi's favorites. The song has been recorded by artists including Paul Robeson, Marion Williams, Johnny Cash, Phil Keaggy, Max Roach, Diamanda Galás, Harry Belafonte, The Seldom Scene, Diamond Version (with Neil Tennant), Bayard Rustin, Rajaton, and Chris Rice. A critic from The Indianapolis News wrote about Paul Robeson's rendition of Were You There, saying that "It was as startling and vivid a disclosure of reverent feeling of penetrating pathos as one could imagine."

Lyrics

The following lyrics are those printed in the 1899 Unicorn. *Old Plantation Hymns*; other variations exist.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nail'd Him to the cross? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they nail'd Him to the cross?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!

Were you there when they nail'd Him to the cross?

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?



Lyrical Analysis

"Were You There" utilizes a system of coded language in its lyrics like most, if not all, African-American spirituals. Metaphors, especially those involving Old Testament figures, as well as Jesus, are often central to the meanings of spirituals. "Were You There" tells the story of the [Crucifixion of Jesus](#). Underneath this narrative, however, is a metaphor likening Jesus's suffering to the suffering of slaves. In some versions of the song, the singer asks "Were you there when they nailed Him to the Tree?" Replacing Jesus' cross with a tree further strengthens the metaphor between Jesus' suffering and slaves' suffering. African-Americans during the antebellum period, and all the way into the Jim Crow era, would have drawn a connection between Jesus nailed to a tree and the frightening prevalence of lynchings in their own lives. This expression of likening one's experience to Jesus' is underscored by the first-person, present-tense perspective of "Were You There;" the singer personally witnesses the crucifixion. The use of first person pronouns in the spiritual reflects a sense of "communal selfhood" formed by African-American slaves in the face of oppression.

Source: wikipedia.org

Jesus—the Last, Most Tender Word

YESHUA

There is tenderness even in the name “Jesus,” a name that contains a promise. Rendered *Yeshua* in Hebrew, it means “Yahweh is salvation,” thereby linking Jesus to the holiest name for God in Scripture. God comes into clearest focus in the life of Jesus—a God who surprises us not only by His power but by the greatness of His love. Jesus is also called the *Logos* or “Word.” He is God’s definitive message to the human race.

While searching the Gospels for the tender words of Jesus, Ann Spangler, from her book [The Tender Words of God](#), encountered a friend with an intriguing question: “If Jesus is God and God is love, why does Jesus sometimes seem not very nice in the Gospels?” It was a question she had asked herself more than once as she read through the Gospels. Oftentimes, Jesus’ words “sounded anything but tender.”

***“Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it.”
Luke 11:44***

“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?” Matthew 23:33

“You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.” Matthew 23:27

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning.” John 8:44

Perhaps part of the answer to her friend’s question is that love is not always “nice,” especially in the face of wickedness.

As she continued reading through Jesus’ words in the Gospels, she was also reminded of how undiplomatic He could be. So often, when faced with the opportunity to say a word that would calm tensions and subdue tempers, Jesus said something that inflamed the situation, as though poking a stick into a beehive. It struck her that Jesus’ harshest words were directed at people who needed skewering—the religious leaders of His day who resisted the Gospel and tried to influence ordinary people against Him. To be tender toward such men would be to turn His back on those He had come to save. It would be like looking on while someone held another person’s head under water, depriving him of life.

So often, Jesus’ words are as startling as they are challenging, words like:

“You have heard that it was said, Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.” Matthew 5:38-39

“It has been said, “Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.” Matthew 5:31-32

How could such words possibly be construed as tender, she wondered? The more she read, the more she began to realize that experiencing the tenderness of Jesus is often a matter of perspective. For instance, the passage exhorting us to love our enemies can seem like an impossible command. But it also reveals

(Jesus, the Last, Most Tender Word cont'd)

the heart of Christ Himself, who when we were yet His enemies, treated us with the kind of extreme love that He commends to His followers.

But what about the passage concerning divorce? It would certainly have sounded harsh in the ears of a Jewish male. But to the ears of a Jewish woman, the words would have sounded sweet, because at that time a husband could divorce his wife for just about any reason, including a burnt dinner! As usual, Jesus was taking the side of the weak, of those who had no one to protect them.

Fortunately, her search through the Gospels uncovered many straightforward tender words—evidence of kindness to the sick, the weary, the outcast, the hungry, the poor and the demon-possessed. To anyone willing, He spoke words of encouragement and love. He was God walking in the creation He loved, touching, restoring, healing and imparting hope.

Even His actions and miracles are “words” to us, communicating God’s profound love, telling us of His intention to restore and redeem us. The more she listened to the tender words of Jesus, identifying herself with the needy, the more she found herself relaxing, calming down, leaning into the words Jesus speaks to reshape the soul:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

“Don’t be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:31

“My yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:30

“Friend, your sins are forgiven.” Luke 5:20

“Remain in my love.” John 15:9



Submitted by Paulette Tapp
Communications Ministry



When someone asks you to tell a story, where do you begin? It's so easy to say, *"Thus said the Lord", "God is good, all the time ..."*, because God truly, really is so good and yes, *"all the time, God is good"*. Or use another biblical jargon, *"What's for you, is for you"*. But can I just be real? It was not easy to shine through the last four seasons. These were some tough times. Our loss of family and friends, battling through sickness and health, and so many other losses as well, whether spiritually and materially, are just too numerous to name.

Anyway, my story includes my favorite scripture of all time, Proverbs 3:5, *"Trust in the Lord ..."* These four words were my mom's mantra. She said it every time she ended a conversation with me. After her passing I found myself saying the same to others. These words are action words. Yet, so easy to quote scripture when all is going well. However, they are powerful words too. And saying it and meaning it is the other story you and I don't always share or tell. But when the world turned topsy turvy around December 2019, I knew in my spirit that God had a plan and a vision way bigger than yours or mine, and for the next journey ahead.

Winter-Spring brought a lot of changes and challenges. Some of them were so subliminal while others were mountains that I could not climb alone. Our church, family, along with employment dynamics were beginning to be tested. For me, we had just purchased another home with the intention to move right away. That didn't happen as sickness and health was our season to trust God. Our adult children were thrown into different directions as some depended on us as parents, who suddenly moved their cheese. Oh, my goodness! Now, the Pandemic is here! People are dying all over the land! My thoughts were, *"What in the world is going on?" "How are we, no, me, going to get through all of this?"*

My humanistic side was trying to handle all my situations and thoughts on my own. But there was a constant song whispering in my spirit, *"Trust and obey; there is no other way ..."*¹. Spring-Summer approached with medical treatments, partially moving half a household out of state, commuting two cities back and forth, and family caregiving. I was all over the place. Selfishly, I was not handling any of this as I should have, at least not by faith, or by trusting God. I found myself rebelling and thanking God in the same breath. My faith and belief were not on the same accord. How was I trusting in the Lord and proclaiming the name of Jesus where my actions did not emulate God's word? As some would say, *"that still small voice"* (thank you Holy Spirit) kept asking, *"Do you trust me?"* I often replied, *"Yes Lord, I trust you."* But did I really mean what I was saying?

Around Summer-Fall, the truth of God's word lit a fire inside me, where trusting in the Lord wasn't just momma's mantra anymore. I finally gave in to *"Let go and Let God"*²; on my knees, pressing my faith, is where I found myself. God's plan was too big, and I just love how He reveals himself to us, expected but not really expecting. All those obstacles, challenges and changes were growing me into the next spiritual awaking that was just for me. Yet He allowed me to go through to trust Him. I stayed in His word. He winterized me with His grace, love, forgiveness, and blessings. And, yes, mercies beyond any measure.

(Trusting in the Lord cont'd)

My sincere “newest” to giving thanks for all things in everything has another meaning, a spiritual deep dive. My trusting mantra became a heart-warming action, that no matter what, I will trust God.

Well, it's Spring again. We've all been through some things, some tests, and some challenges and even potentials. But just the sheer fact that I am here today, and you, too, are reading my story, is not by fate. God manifested healing – mind, body and soul. He loosened up division. He allowed me to continue to worship Him and to praise Him through Christ Jesus. He brought me through His plan, and I acknowledge there are more of His plans to come that I still cannot see. With my whole heart, I pray to always to put my trust in the Lord, my present, my forward.

Yes, seasons come, and seasons go. However, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). Too, what I do know for real is, “...this is my story, this is my song, [trusting] my Savior, all the day long...”³. What's your story?

Humbly submitted,
La Rahn Waldon
FBC Member

¹Witten by John H. Sammis

²Unknown origin

³Written by Fanny Crosby



trust in him
at
all times

Celebrating Our History

A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Attributed to Marcus Garvey

BLACK HISTORY

OUR VOICES. OUR STORIES.

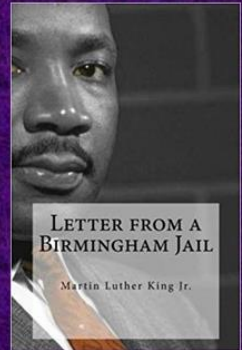


Sis. Diane Russell, Black History Coordinator
Communications Ministry



April 3, 1963 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. opened the anti-segregation campaign in Birmingham. More than two thousand demonstrators, including King, were arrested before the campaign ended.

April 16, 1963 - After being arrested for ignoring an Alabama state court injunction against demonstrations, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. writes his famous *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, a defense of nonviolent resistance to racism.



April 3, 1968 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his final address at Bishop Charles J. Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, "I've Been to the Mountaintop."

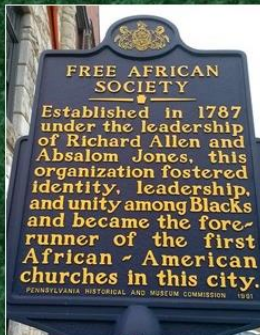
April 4, 1968 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is shot and killed on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.



April 9, 1968 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is buried in Atlanta.



April 19, 1775 - Free blacks fight with the Minutemen in the initial skirmishes of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.



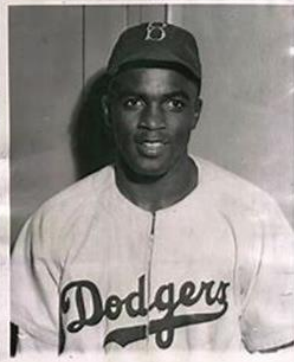
April 12, 1787 - Richard Allen and Absalom Jones organized the Free African Society, a mutual self-help group in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



April 3, 1944 - The US Supreme Court, in an 8-1 ruling declared that Blacks could not be barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primaries.

(Black History cont'd)

April 19, 1947
Jackie Robinson became the first black to play major league baseball.



April 8, 1974
Henry Aaron hit his 715th home run to become the all-time leading hitter of home runs.

April 20, 1986
Michael Jordan's 63 points in 1986 NBA Playoffs



Ella Jane Fitzgerald
April 25, 1917 – June 15, 1996 was an American jazz singer

Marie Maynard Daly
April 16, 1921 – October 28, 2003 was an American biochemist. She was the first African American woman in the United States to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry, awarded by Columbia University in 1947.



Eleanora Fagan
April 7, 1915 – July 17, 1959, known professionally as Billie Holiday, was an American jazz and swing music singer.



Maya Angelou
born Marguerite Annie Johnson; April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014 was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist.



You are young, gifted, and Black. We must begin to tell our young, There's a world waiting for you, Yours is the quest that's just begun.

— James Weldon Johnson —

National Black Anthem

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

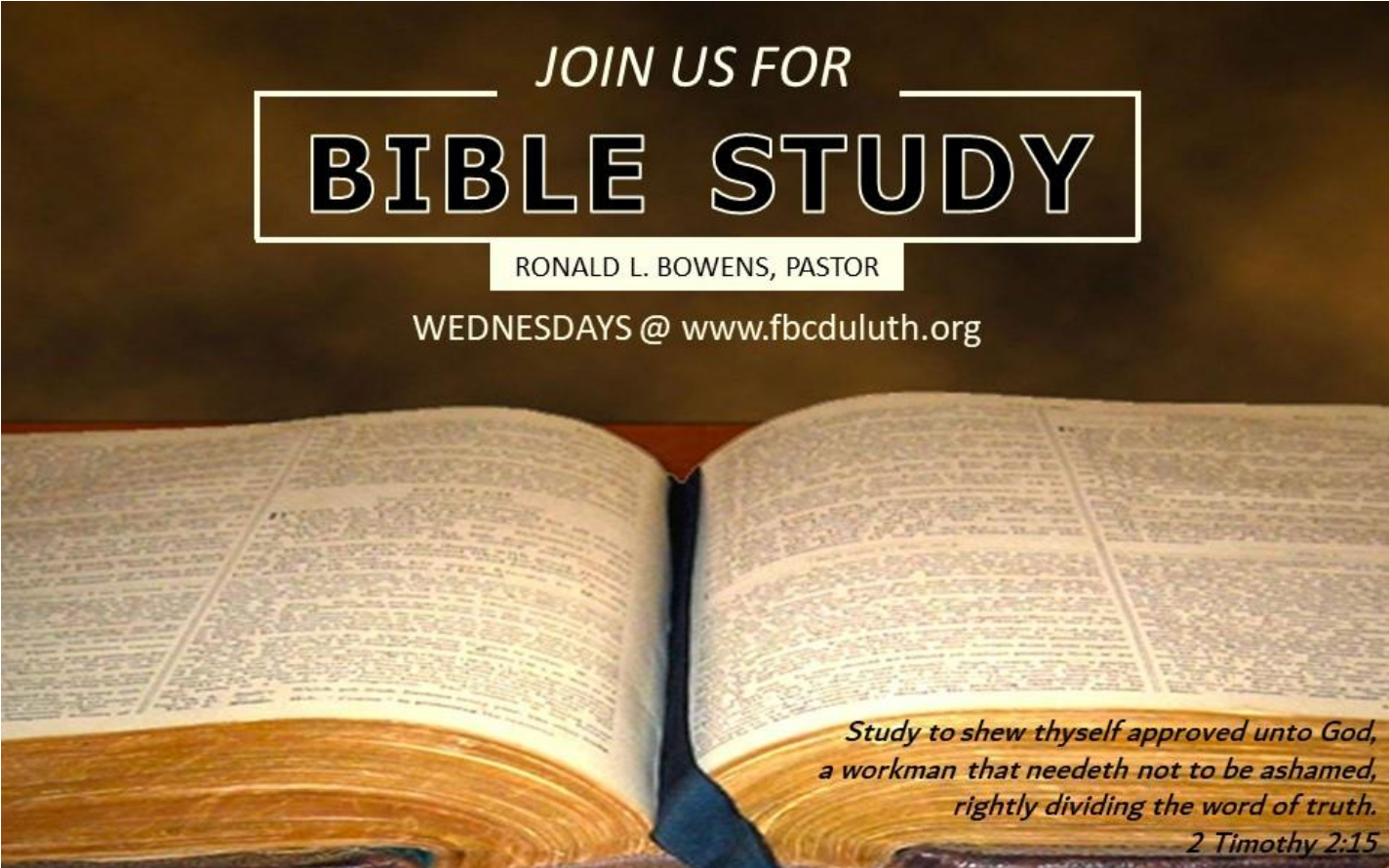
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

JOIN US FOR
BIBLE STUDY

RONALD L. BOWENS, PASTOR

WEDNESDAYS @ www.fbcduluth.org



*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15*



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 KJV

"Apart from me you can do nothing." When Jesus is speaking to His disciples in John 15, He doesn't say apart from me you can do some things. He doesn't say apart from me you can manage your household or even do your work. He says apart from me you can do nothing. If we're being honest, this sounds a little scary, but we also must realize how freeing this truly is. John 15 is such a sweet reminder of the privilege we have to walk with Jesus, to be near to our creator in the mundane and in the chaos.

There is a song inspired by John 15 and one of the lines says, "I'll be the branches if you'll be the root. I'd give all my freedom, I'd become a slave. To lay on your shore and be washed by your waves." This paints a perfect picture of what it looks like to surrender to Jesus and remain in His Word and to remain in Him. Once we surrender, we get to sit near the Father and we get to bear fruit in His will.



Dorian Rogers, Superintendent
4integrityauto@gmail.com
 Phone: 770-309-6245

FBC Sunday School on ZOOM! Please join one of our Adult online Sunday School classes every Sunday from 9:45 am – 10:45 am. The study for this quarter will focus on **“Prophets Faithful to God’s Covenant.”**

CLASSES AVAILABLE

Men’s Class
 Women’s Class
 Marriage Class
 Conn3ct Class (Young Adults)
 Singles Class

Youth Classes are 9:00 am to 9:45 am:
 Primary Class (Pre-K thru 2nd Grade)
 Junior Class (3rd Grade – 5th Grade)
 Teen Class (6th Grade – 12th Grade)

Also, join us for Youth Church and Teen Church. **Please go to our website at www.fbcduluth.org for the link to the Zoom classes. See you there!**

Sunday school books are available for pick up from the Church office Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm.

From the March 28th lesson “Elijah: Prophet of Courage” 1 Kings 18:5-18

Liberating Lesson: Speaking the truth today, especially to those who disagree with Christian beliefs is not always easy. Elijah walked in such confidence. He struggled at times with negative thinking and depression, but he also listened to God and followed His instructions. Think of Christians that you know that are bold like Elijah. If possible, have a conversation with them about their journey and glean from their experience.

Application for Activation: Take some time this week to examine your circles of influence in your family, church, job or community. Have you spoken up about Christ or have you kept your faith private? Pray about how God may want you to change. Ask the Holy Spirit to point out Scriptures this week to give you more wisdom and understanding. Surrender to the Lord and allow Him to do the transforming.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sis. Charlene Benn, Ministry Leader



**FBC
Youth & Teen
Worship Services**

@ fbcduluth.org/onlineclass-4/

TEEN MINISTRY

Rev. Stan & Min. Barbara Williams, Ministry Leaders



Church News & Other Important Information

How to Apply for FEMA Funeral Funds up to \$7,000 - The Rules Explained

Go to:
<https://a.msn.com/r/2/BB1eN8iz?m=en-us&referrerID=InAppShare>

Communications Ministry

FBC's newsletter, Friendship's Voice, is the voice of the people. Being sheltered in has changed many lives in a number of ways. Consider sharing a word for God's people, a testimony, an inspiration, a helpful tip for parents trying to balance working from home and helping their children with school work. "You can merely be a witness and share aspects of your experience while sheltered in." Are you doing something specifically to help others during the shelter in place order? Have you adopted a new hobby or some other activity you would like to share with your Friendship family? Please provide feedback and include your name, phone number and email address and send newsletter information to Paulette Tapp at ptapp1052@gmail.com or via text at 678-779-4661. If you need additional information about the Communications Ministry, please contact Louie Malone at tag49llm@aol.com.

Women's Ministry

Are you looking to grow in your walk with the Lord as a mighty Woman of God? Do you miss the fellowship with your Sisters in Christ? Well, don't delay... come join us! The Women's Ministry is waiting for you! We meet the 2nd Saturday of every month on Zoom. Intercessory prayer starts at 8:30 am and the fellowship begins at 9:00 am. Come worship with us as we seek the Lord and go after Him with all our heart. We are excited for all God is doing! If you have any questions, please contact Min. Monique Stroman at 678-357-8282 or Sis. Leslie Houston at 770-296-8874.

"We're All In!"

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 9570 8020
 Passcode: 792408

We hope to see you there! Be blessed! ❤️



<https://abundant.co/fbcduluth/give>

Go to fbcduluth.org and click on: "Giving" tab or text: fbcduluth to 73256

Contributions can also be mailed to:

Friendship Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 604
 Duluth, GA 30096

Bible Word Search: Easter

All the words listed below are in the puzzle (left, right, up, down or diagonally). Print this page and circle each word you find. After you have found all the words, write down the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.

```

A I S P R I N G O H R I S E N
L P A S S O V E R E T R I A L
I B B C A L V A R Y M A S M J
V M B U N P R E D E E M E D E
E O A A H T O G L O G L A D S
R T R G E T H S E M A N E U U
A R A E D C W G T S P I C A S
C R B L R A G O U L F E N C P
H E R O I S L R R I E G A A R
R T S E N P E E C S E S R C I
I S T A S J M U N L H A A J E
S O M B E T R A Y E D I E U S
T O I R A C S I R E T E P D T
R R E H C R U H C Y O J P A R
G A R D E N O I T A V L A S N
    
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- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| ALIVE | CRUCIFIED | JUDAS | ROMANS |
| ANGEL | DEATH | MAGDALENE | ROOSTER |
| APOSTLES | EGGS | MARY | SALVATION |
| APPEARANCE | EMMAUS | PARADE | SANHEDRIN |
| ARREST | GARDEN | PASSOVER | SPRING |
| BARABBAS | GETHESEMANE | PEACE | TOMB |
| BETRAYED | GOLGOTHA | PETER | TRIAL |
| CALVARY | ISCARIOT | PILATE | WORSHIP |
| CHRIST | JERUSALEM | PRIEST | RESURRECTION |
| CHURCH | JESUS | REDEEMED | |
| CROSS | JOY | RISEN | |

Mystery Answer: -----

(Answer on page 31)

OPPORTUNITIES TO **SERVE** AT FRIENDSHIP

WEEKLY

Classes and Meetings are virtual until further notice

Bible Study (Adult)	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Sanctuary
Intercessory Prayer	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Mid-Week Service	Wednesday	12:00 noon	Lower Level Main Building
New Members' Class	Sunday	9:45 am	Room 209 Family Life Center
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 am	Family Life Center
Sunday School Teachers	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lower Level Main Building
Sunday Worship	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Teen Church	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Heritage Church
Youth Church Bible Study	Wednesday	7:45 pm	Lower Level Main Building

MONTHLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Communication's Ministry	3rd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 135 Family Life Center
Deacon's Meeting	Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	7:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center
Education Ministry	2nd Monday	7:00 pm	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg
Gatekeepers Ministry	4th Saturday	10:00 am	Room 130 Family Life Center
Gospel Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 1st & 3rd Sunday	7:00 pm	
Health Ministry	2nd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg
Male Chorus Preparation	2nd & 4th Saturday	9:30 am	Sanctuary
Marriage Ministry	3rd Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:45 am	Room 239 Family Life Center
Media Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 130 Family Life Center
Men's Ministry	1st Saturday	10:30 am	TBA Monthly
Minister's Meeting	1st Saturday	3:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center
Money Matters	2nd Saturday	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall
Mother's Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 135 Family Life Center
Outreach Ministry	3rd Saturday	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Prison Ministry			
Seniors Ministry	4th Saturday	11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
Shepherd's Care Ministry	3rd Saturday	10:00 am	Room 202 Lower Level Main Bldg
Singles Ministry	4th Saturday	12:30 pm	Lower Level - Heritage Church
Usher Ministry	1st Tuesday	7:00 pm	Room 135 Family Life Center
Women's Ministry	2nd Saturday	8:45 am	Fellowship Hall
Youth Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 2nd & 4th Sunday	6:45 pm	

SPECIAL MONTHLY SERVICES

Holy Communion	1st Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Baptism	3rd Sunday	11:00 am	Sanctuary
Baby Dedications	4th Sunday	7:30 & 11:00am	Sanctuary



Get plugged in using your gifts, talent, skills and time serving God's people **TOGETHER IN LOVE.**

Mystery Answer: RESURRECTION

Communications Ministry

President

Louie Malone

Vice President

Tina Patterson

Secretary

Paulette Tapp

Assistant Secretary

Kelly Wilson

Treasurer

Michal Patterson

Chaplain

Regina Gilbert

Deacon Advisor

Harold Mitchell

Newsletter Staff

Editor-in-Chief/Graphic Designer

Paulette Tapp

Editor/Proofreader

Christine Smith

Diane Russell

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Louie Malone

Shirley Price

Publisher

Louie Malone

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Hyacinth Chung

Jennifer Jones

Tina Patterson

Christine Smith

Kelly Wilson

Friendship Baptist Church has a newly-enhanced website to provide greater communication across all FBC Ministries. Improvements are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the Communications Ministry at tag49llm@aol.com.

SUBSCRIBE to: www.fbcduluth.org

**DEADLINE FOR MAY SUBMITTALS IS
FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH**



Mission Statement

Exalt the Savior • Equip the Saint • Evangelize the Sinner

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH

Friendly through Fellowship

Developed through Discipleship

Enlarged through Evangelism

Sharing and Caring through Servanthood

Stronger through God's Word and True Worship

Church Address and Contact Information

3375 Church Lane, Duluth GA 30096

Contact: Rita Bowens, Executive Assistant @ 770-497-8227

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Email: fbcduluth@att.net

Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC Associate Ministers

Rev. Ken Blacknell

Min. Clyde Conerly

Min. James Cottingham

Elder Chris Evans

Rev. Garfield Garner

Rev. Eugene Graves

Min. Shurron Green

Rev. Artis Johnson

Min. Larry Jones

Min. James Redman

Rev. Timothy Twyman

Min. Floyd Williams

Rev. Stanley Williams

Rev. Alton Wilson

FBC Ministers of Evangelism

Min. Karen Blacknell

Evg. Geneva Burse

Min. Erika Cottingham

Min. Roslyn Long

Evg. Valerie Montaque

Evg. Ruthell Morris

Min. Jada Redman

Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Min. Monique Stroman

Min. Nicole Walker

Min. Barbara Williams

Evg. Deloris Williams