



Holy Week Guide

March 25 - April 1, 2018

Central Baptist Church

North Little Rock, Arkansas



Dear Central Family,

We come again to Holy Week, the week above all other weeks! And once again we call on you, the church family, to come with us as we celebrate these days that altered all of human history.

Set these days aside.

Come and remember.

Come and rejoice.

Come and celebrate the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

We have prepared this guide to help us as we do just that.

Wyman Richardson and Billy Davis



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 25

9 a.m. (Sunday School) / 10:15 a.m. & 6 p.m. (Worship)

Monday, March 26

Holy Monday - 12:10-12:50 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27

Holy Tuesday - 12:10-12:50 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28

Meal – 5:00

Holy Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 30

Good Friday – 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 1

7:30 a.m. (Sunrise) / 8:00 a.m. (Breakfast)

9 a.m. (Sunday School) / 10:15 a.m. (Worship) / No p.m. Service



Sunday, March 25

**9 a.m. Sunday School / 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship
6 p.m. Evening Worship (in sanctuary)**

Call to Praise

**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”
“The Lion And The Lamb”**

Celebration Choir

“One True God”

Capital Campaign Kickoff

Welcome and Fellowship Time

Pastor Wyman

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15

*The leader will read the light print and the congregation will
respond in unison with the bold print.*

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,

2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Celebration Choir

“I Just Can’t Stop My Hallelujahs”

Message
“The Women”
Mark 15:40-41,47; 16:1

Invitation
“There Is A Redeemer”
 (“Jesus, All for Jesus”)

Offertory Prayer

Offertory
Tim Blann



HOLY MONDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Monday, March 26
12:10 p.m.



For many centuries the church of the West has heard this truth explicitly proclaimed on the night of the Easter vigil, when her herald deacon, standing before the new light of the Paschal candle and as though losing all sense of proportion and reason in the contemplation of its splendor, chants that glorious line of the Exultet: *O felix culpa, quae talem et tantum meruit habere Redemptorem*—“O happy failing, that deserved such and so great a Redeemer.”

Patrick Henry Reardon

Video Introduction
“No Other King”

Welcome
Pastor Wyman

Special Music
“New Jerusalem”
Jerry Wright, Allan Broussard, Josh Townsend

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15
*The leader will read the light print and the congregation will
respond in unison with the bold print.*

9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

Reflection on the Silence of God

*Listen to Andrew Peterson sing "The Silence of God."
Read along as he sings, reflecting on the faithfulness of God
even in those times when we feel that we cannot hear Him.*

It's enough to drive a man crazy; it'll break a man's faith
It's enough to make him wonder if he's ever been sane
When he's bleating for comfort from Thy staff and Thy rod
And the heaven's only answer is the silence of God

It'll shake a man's timbers when he loses his heart
When he has to remember what broke him apart
This yoke may be easy, but this burden is not
When the crying fields are frozen by the silence of God

And if a man has got to listen to the voices of the mob
Who are reeling in the throes of all the happiness they've got

When they tell you all their troubles have been nailed up to that
cross

Then what about the times when even followers get lost?
'Cause we all get lost sometimes...

There's a statue of Jesus on a monastery knoll
In the hills of Kentucky, all quiet and cold
And He's kneeling in the garden, as silent as a Stone
All His friends are sleeping and He's weeping all alone

And the man of all sorrows, he never forgot
What sorrow is carried by the hearts that he bought
So when the questions dissolve into the silence of God
The aching may remain, but the breaking does not
The aching may remain, but the breaking does not
In the holy, lonesome echo of the silence of God

Silent Prayers of Praise

Carefully read and prayerfully consider Psalm 22, a psalm that Jesus quoted on the cross. Watch how it moves from anguish to hope to ultimate victory.

Psalm 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵ To you they cried and were rescued; in you

they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸ “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!” ⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. ¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. ¹² Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; ¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—¹⁷ I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; ¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. ¹⁹ But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! ²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen! ²² I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴ For

he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. ³⁰ Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

Congregational Worship In Song “Because He Lives”

Directed Prayer

Pastor Wyman will lead in a time of directed prayer.

Silent Prayer Concerning the Sovereignty of God

We may struggle to hear and to understand, but, ultimately, we rest in the unassailable sovereignty of God. Read Psalm 2 carefully and prayerfully.

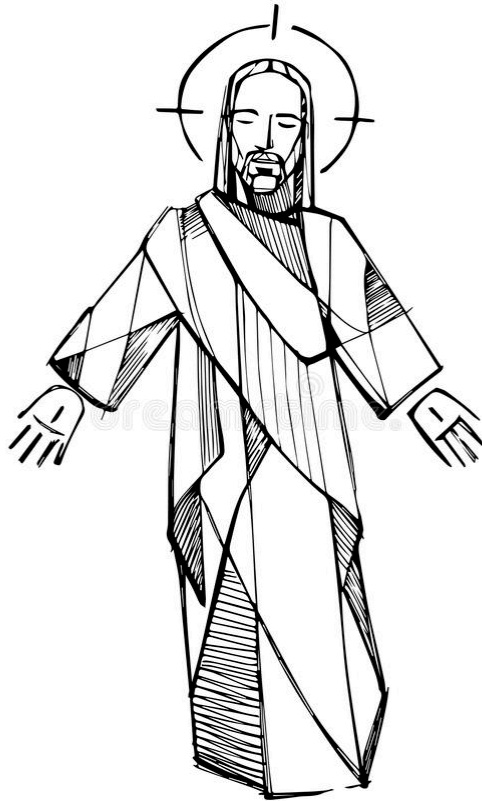
Psalm 2

¹ Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, ³ “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. ⁵ He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, ⁶ “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.” ⁷ I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. ⁸ Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” ¹⁰ Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. ¹² Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.



HOLY TUESDAY PRAYER SERVICE

**Tuesday, March 27
12:10 p.m.**



Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino
acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

John Updike, "Seven Stanzas at Easter"

Video Introduction
“Through the Moments”

Welcome and Opening Prayer
Pastor Wyman

Worship in Song
“I Stand Amazed In The Presence”

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15
*The leader will read the light print and the congregation will
respond in unison with the bold print.*

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is
futile and you are still in your sins.

**18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ
have perished.**

19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of
all people most to be pitied.

**20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the
dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come
also the resurrection of the dead.

**22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all
be made alive.**

23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits,
then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

**24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the
kingdom to God the Father after destroying every
rule and every authority and power.**

Silent Prayers of Praise for the Risen Son

In his novel Byzantium, Christian writer Stephen Lawhead envisions what an Easter sermon might have sounded like among the early Irish Christians. Here is a creative and powerful look at how another time might have communicated the good news that Christ had risen, communicated here through the character Abbot Fraoch. Read this sermon, then spend some time in silent prayer thanking God for Easter!

Behold this cross! Sure, it is naked now, but it was not always so. I would have you remember friends, that dire and dreadful day, when the Great King's Son took the weight of the world upon his back as he hung upon Golgotha's tree!

Woe and sham, I say! O, Heart of my heart, your people seized you; they bound you; they struck you: green reed on firm flesh, hateful fist on ruddy cheek! Wicked thorns became a crown for the sacred head; a borrowed robe mocked the shoulders of him who bore the grievous stain of mankind's sin.

And then, no stopping the bloodlust, they took you, piercing hands and feet with cold, cruel nails.

They raised you high above the ground to die in bitter agony, your people helpless, watching.

Hideous deed, the World Creator was spat upon as death stole the light from his eyes...Thunder and wind did not constrain, the rain and hail they heeded not—neither the broken voice crying out: Abba, forgive them! They know not what they do!

Up came the sharp-bladed spear, biting deep into your wounded heart. Water and blood poured down your gleaming sides—the wine of forgiveness spilled out for all—and the Beautiful One of God breathed no more...

The rock-cut tomb becomes your home, Beloved. The solitude of the turf house is your new domain, there in the bone grove. Caesar's soldiers stand guard at the doorstone lest the murderers disturb your deathsleep.

Do they fear you even yet? They have done you to death, Lord of All, and they stand guard, looking right and left, hands trembling. Darkness falls over the earth. How not? The Light of Life has been shut up in a grave, and the greedy night is full of demon smiles.

Friends...the enemies of light and life held great celebration then. Their revelry resounded loud in the Halls of Heaven. And the Father God gazed down in his sore grief. "See here, Michael!" he called to his Champion. "They have killed my beloved son. That is bad enough, but they should not rejoice so. Can this be right, that evil should exult in the death of the Only Righteous?"

And Michael, Servant of Light, replied, “Lord, you know it is not right. Say the word my king, and I shall slay them all with my fiery sword.”

Oh, but the Ever Merciful lays a finger to his lips. And it is: “Patience, patience, all in good time. I would not be God if disaster should find me unequal to the task. Only stand you back and watch what I shall do.”

The High King of Heaven, his great heart breaking, gazed down into that bleak grove. A single tear from his loving eye fell into that dark tomb where lay the body of his blessed son, the Prince of Peace. That tear struck the Christ full on his battered face, and sweet life came flooding back.

The Great King turned to his Champion and said, “Why do you tarry, friend? You see how it is. Roll aside that stone and let my son go free!” Michael, striking like lightning to the earth, put his hand to the accursed rock and, with a flick of his finger, hurled the great millstone aside.

Up you arose! Christ Victorious! You threw aside the sack and stood. Death, that weak, contemptible thing, lay shattered at your feet. You kicked the shards aside and strode from the tomb, brave soldiers falling on their faces, slain by the sight of such undiluted glory!...A thousand welcomes O Blessed King! A thousand welcomes, Eternal Youth! Hail and welcome, Lord of Grace, who suffered all that death could do—for Adam’s sinful race, you suffered, yes, and gladly died. Firstborn of Life, it

was ourselves you carried from the tomb, each and every one clinging to your broad back.

So look upon the cross and rejoice, friends.
Think of it, and praise Him who has the power to raise the dead to life. Amen!

Silent Prayers of Beatitude

Read the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, below. Pray carefully over each beatitude, applying them to your own life.

Matthew 5

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you

falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Message in Song

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

Ann Scharfenberg, Billy Davis

Directed Prayer

Wyman Richardson will lead in a time of directed prayer.

Silent Prayer Before the Goodness of God

Listen to Andrew Peterson’s song, “Always Good,” then enter into a season of silent prayer, thanking God for His goodness over each area of your life.

Do You remember how Mary was grieving?
How You wept and she fell at Your feet?
If it’s true that You know what I’m feeling
Could it be that You’re weeping with me?

Arise, O Lord, and save me
There’s nowhere else to go

You’re always good, always good
Somehow this sorrow is shaping my heart
like it should
And You’re always good, always good

It’s so hard to know what You’re doing
Why won’t You tell it all plain?

But you said You'd come back on the third day
And Peter missed it again and again

So maybe the answer surrounds us
And we don't have eyes to see

You're always good, always good
This heartache is moving me closer
Than joy ever could, and You're always good

My God, my God, be near me
There's nowhere else to go
And Lord, if You can hear me
Please help Your child to know

You're always good, always good
As we try to believe, what is not meant
to be understood
Will You help us to trust Your intentions
For us are still good
'Cause You laid down Your life
And You suffered like I never could

You're always good, always good
You're always good, always good

HOLY WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 28

6:00 p.m.



The Lord Jesus is written in the bloodstream of the universe. The Creator left an impression of Christ in everything. That which came forth from the lungs of God when the worlds were spoken into existence was Jesus. The entire cosmos bears His magnificent imprint. In a matchless metaphor, Tertullian wrote that Christ (*Logos*) pervades the world in the same way as honey in the comb.

Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola, *Jesus Manifesto*

Video Reflection
“Gospel”

Worship in Song
“Man Of Sorrows”

Prayer and Welcome
Thomas Sewell

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15
*The leader will read the light print and the congregation will
respond in unison with the bold print.*

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies
under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his
feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in
subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all
things in subjection under him.

**28 When all things are subjected to him, then the
Son himself will also be subjected to him who put
all things in subjection under him, that God may
be all in all.**

29 Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized
on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all,
why are people baptized on their behalf?

30 Why are we in danger every hour?

31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

Message in Song

“I Believe”

Jenny Sewell

Message

“The Shepherd and the Sheep”

Luke 15:1-7

Pastor Wyman

Invitation

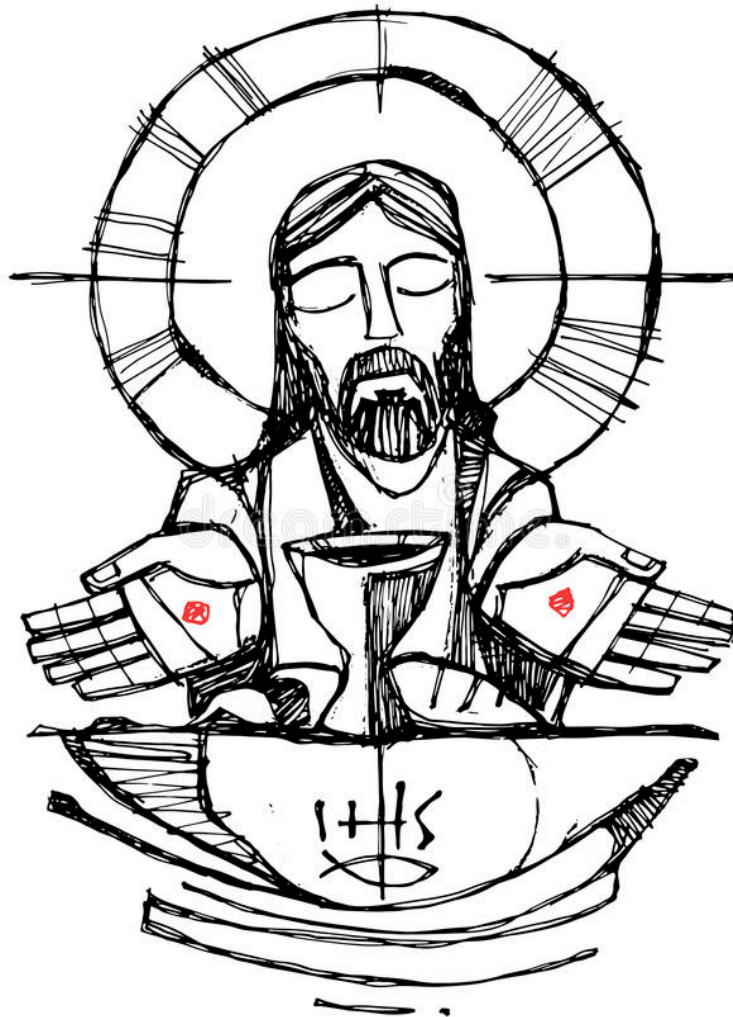
“The Old Rugged Cross”



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, March 29

6:30 p.m.



Scourged from our hearts be every image but the marred face of Jesus when we partake of his supper. Let that face fill our vision.

B.H. Carroll, *Ecclesia*

Video Reflection

“Is He Worthy” by Andrew Peterson

Congregational Singing

“This Is Amazing Grace”

Opening Prayer

Thomas Sewell

Welcome

Pastor Wyman

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15

The leader will read the light print and the congregation will respond in unison with the bold print.

32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”

36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Communion Sermon

“The Table”

1 Corinthians 11:26

Pastor Wyman

Preparation for the Observance of Holy Communion
Message In Song
“Come To The Table”
Caitlin Campbell

Corporate Confession of Sin

O God, you have shown us the way of life through
your Son, Jesus Christ.

We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him,
Our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear
the cross.

We confess the poverty of our worship,
Our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace,
Our hesitating witness for Christ,
Our evasion of responsibilities in our service,
Our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.
Create within us a clean heart, O God,
And put a new and right spirit within us.

Recitation of the Church Covenant

As a body of born again believers,

We covenant to become an authentic family by
loving one another as Christ loves us,
praying for one another,
speaking truth to one another in love,
being patient with one another,
protecting one another,

considering one another as more important than ourselves.

We covenant to embrace the whole gospel by
studying God's Word faithfully,
learning the gospel together in family worship,
giving ear only to sound doctrine,
living out the gospel in our lives,
embracing the whole counsel of God.

We covenant to bring glory to God by
gathering for worship faithfully,
singing to the glory of God,
joining together in fervent prayer,
doing good works to the Father's glory,
living lives that reflect the beauty of Christ,
giving offerings to God joyfully and faithfully,

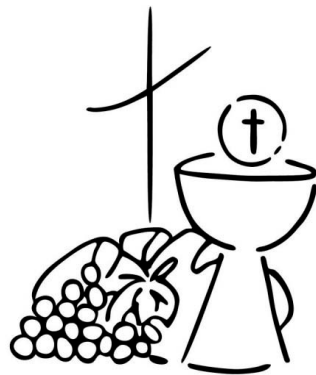
We covenant to reach the nations by
sharing the gospel with those around us,
reaching out to the poor and the needy,
praying for the cause of missions in the world,
giving to the financial support of missions,
being personally involved in missions as God leads
and as we are able.

Observance of the Lord's Supper

Dismissal

C.H. Spurgeon's Communion Hymn

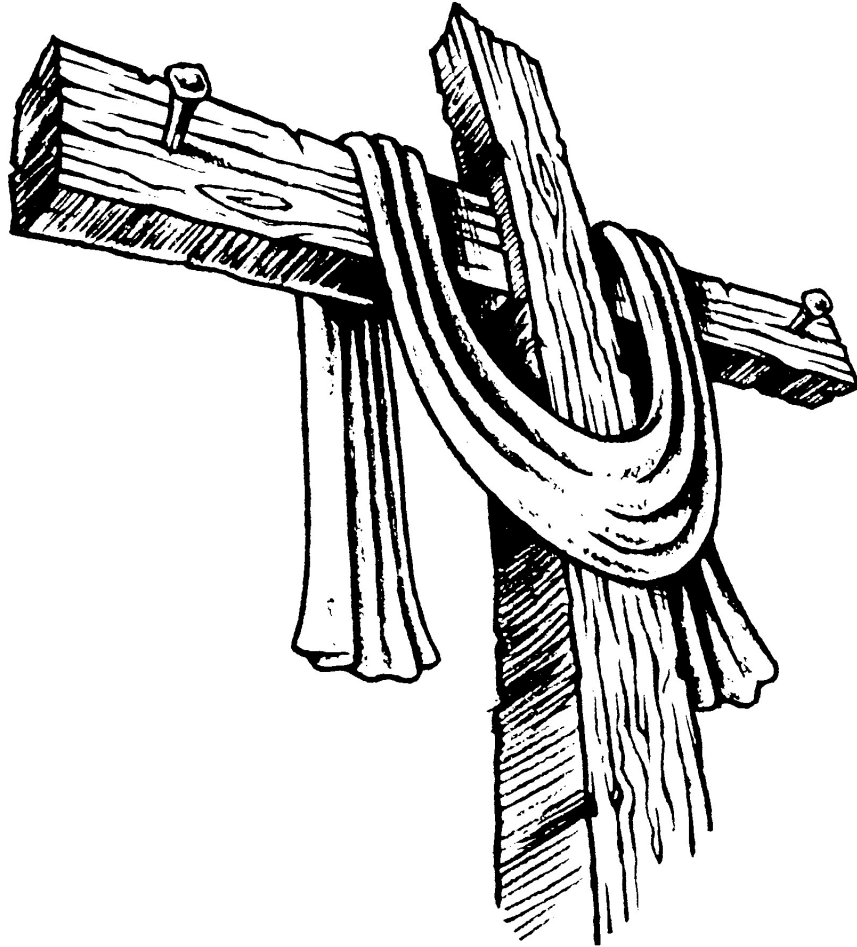
AMIDST us our Belov'd; stands,
And bids us view His pierc'd; hands;
Points to His wounded feet and side,
Blest emblems of the Crucified.
What food luxurious loads the board,
When at His table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet,
When Jesus deigns the guests to meet!
If now with eyes defiled and dim,
We see the signs but see not Him,
Oh, may His love the scales displace,
And bid us see Him face to face!
Our former transports we recount,
When with Him in the holy mount,
These cause our souls to thirst anew,
His marr'd but lovely face to view.
Thou glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
Thy present smile a heaven imparts:
Oh, lift the veil, if veil there be,
Let every saint Thy beauties see!



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

March 30

6:30 p.m.



Video Reflection on the Cross
“Drops of Blood”

Welcome and Introduction
Pastor Wyman

Opening Prayer
Thomas Sewell

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15

The leader will read the light print and the congregation will respond in unison with the bold print.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Congregational Singing
“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”
“Above All”

Message In Song
“Clean”
Rachel Pledger

Reflections on the Seven Last Words
Pastor Wyman

The Seven Last Words of Christ

The Service Ends In Darkness



EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 1



SUNRISE SERVICE

7:30 a.m. on the Grass Outside of the Fellowship Hall

Worship in Song

“Rise and Shine”

Jerry Wright, Allan Broussard, Josh Townsend

Opening Prayer

Thomas Sewell

Welcome

Pastor Wyman

Worship in Song

“There’s Something About That Name”

Message

Pastor Wyman



BREAKFAST

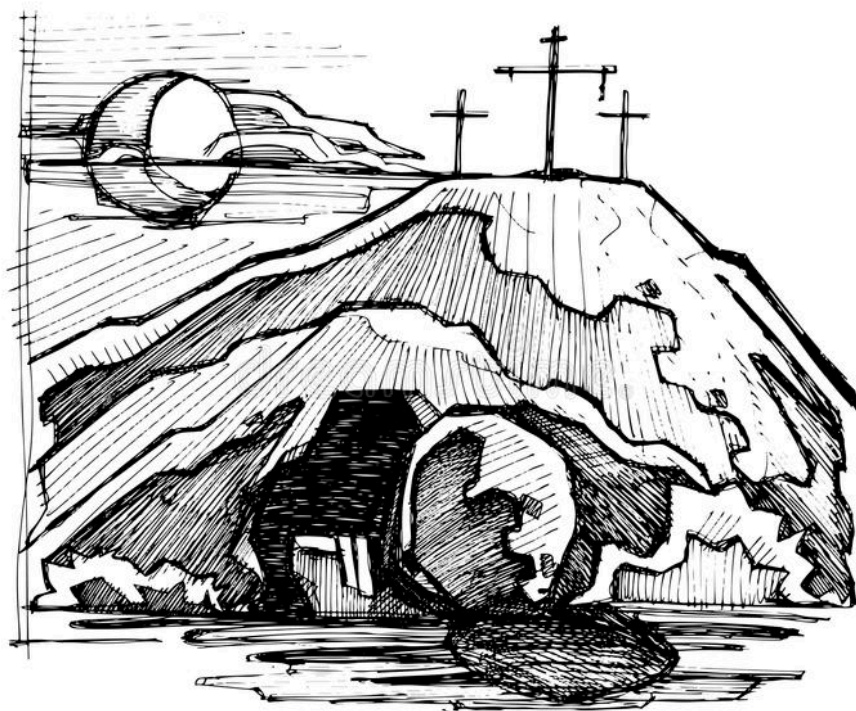
8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:15 In the Sanctuary



Baptism

Video Introduction

“Love is Alive”

Congregational Singing

“Glorious Day”

“Anastasis” (resurrection!)

Message In Song – Celebration Choir

“Three Crosses”

Holy Week Congregational Reading of 1 Corinthians 15

The leader will read the light print and the congregation will respond in unison with the bold print.

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast,
immovable, always abounding in the work of the
Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in
vain.**

Welcome and Fellowship
Wyman Richardson

Multi-Generational Worship
“The Rock Won’t Move”

Message
“Resurrection”
Mark 16

Invitation Hymn
“Grace, Grace”

Offertory –Tim Blann



“Seven Stanzas at Easter”

John Updike (1960)

Make no mistake: if he rose at all
It was as His body;
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit,
The amino acids rekindle,
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
Each soft spring recurrent;
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the
Eleven apostles;
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes
The same valved heart
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered
Out of enduring Might
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded
Credulity of earlier ages:
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
Not a stone in a story,
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of
Time will eclipse for each of us
The wide light of day.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed
By the miracle,
And crushed by remonstrance.

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