



“Jesus Bears His Cross” by Laura James

First Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina
gathers for

The Worship of God

The First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024

Maybe He looked indeed much as Rembrandt envisioned Him in those small heads that seem in fact portraits of more than a model. A dark, still young, very intelligent face, A soul-mirror gaze of deep understanding, unjudging.

That face, in extremis, would have clenched its teeth in a grimace not shown in even the great crucifixions. The burden of humanness (I begin to see) exacted from Him that He taste also the humiliation of dread, cold sweat of wanting to let the whole thing go, like any mortal hero out of his depth, like anyone who has taken herself back.

The painters, even the greatest, don't show how, in the midnight Garden, or staggering uphill under the weight of the Cross, He went through with even the human longing to simply cease, to not be. Not torture of body, not the hideous betrayals humans commit nor the faithless weakness of friends, and surely not the anticipation of death (not then, in agony's grip) was Incarnation's heaviest weight, but this sickened desire to renege, to step back from what He, Who was God, had promised Himself, and had entered time and flesh to enact. Sublime acceptance, to be absolute, had to have welled up from those depths where purpose drifted for mortal moments.

-Denise Levertov

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Rebekah Carlson *violinist*, Baker Lawrimore *pianist*
“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” Music by Thomas Williams

Lighting the Christ Candle Della Sherouse

Opening the Bible Jonah Carlson

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

†Call to Worship Rev. Seth Hix

by Beth Merrill Neel

In this season of Lent, we make our way to the cross,

We remember the steps that led Christ there: betrayal and fear, but also trust in God, and love for humanity.

In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross, we strive to follow Christ's example:

To admit betrayal and fear that are part of life,

To embrace trust in God and love for humanity.

So as we make our journey, let us worship God.

†Hymn 70

"God is Love, let Heaven Adore Him" ABBOT'S LEIGH

†Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Community Rev. Chris Cherry

Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.

†Call to Prayer

Worshippers are asked to move toward the cross
in the center of the sanctuary as we sing together our Call to Prayer.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" HAMBURG

Stanza 1

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

†Prayers of God's People Rev. Courtney Willis

Stanza 2

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

Gospel Lesson Rev. Buck Cochran

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon Rev. Sherouse

†Hymn of Response 514

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" ASSURANCE

If you would like to become a member of this congregation,
you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.

Stewardship Prayer Laura Caroline Rick *deacon*

Choral Offertory Sanctuary Choir, Janice Hix *pianist*, Rebekah Carlson *violinist*

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Arranged by David Schwoebel

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.
To give light to those in darkness, light to those in the shadow of death.
To guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, Which is more than liberty.*

*For the Love of God is broader Than the measures of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more simple, We should rest upon God's word;
And our lives would be illumined By the presence of our Lord.*

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Baker Lawrimore

The Way of the Cross

LENT
2024

"If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me."

Sundays

Bible Study (9:30 AM) & Worship (10:30 am)

Wednesdays

Midweek meal (5:30 PM) and activities (6 pm) for all ages, including Lenten
Vespers for adults, featuring speakers from throughout our community

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17

Children & Youth Sunday, including Egg Hunt and Spring Celebration post-
worship

Palm Sunday, March 24

Processional of Palms and post-service fellowship

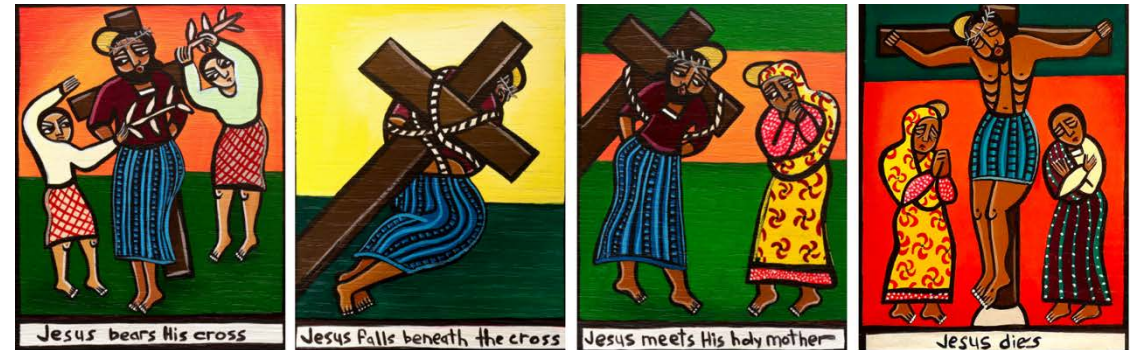
Maundy Thursday, March 28

Service at the Table with Communion and Remembrance (Meal starting at 6:00)

Good Friday, March 29

Guided Meditation on the Sanctuary "Stations of the Cross," 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

Easter Sunday, March 31



**Throughout Lent, our Sanctuary will display the "Stations of the Cross"
A sacred art gallery from artist Laura James.**

The traditional "Stations of the Cross" or "Way of the Cross" refers to a series of images depicting Jesus on the day of his crucifixion. The 15th-century tradition invites contemplation on the events of Christ's Passion.

Laura James' "Stations of the Cross" are housed in the Parish of St. Jean Baptiste in the village of Sassier, Haiti, where they were installed in the wake of the January 2010 earthquake that killed 160,000 people and exposed the realities of extreme poverty. James, who is of Antiguan descent, wanted to provide sacred art that was culturally appropriate, continuing her commitment to create what she terms "art for the people." James notes, "More often than not, Christian art has been depicted from a Eurocentric point of view, and so excludes other ethnic groups from seeing themselves as a reflection of the Creator." In James' stations, Jesus is portrayed with dark hair and brown skin, enveloped in the vibrant color of traditional African art, reflective of a signature style James has developed over more than two decades.

Starting this Sunday and throughout the season of Lent, you are encouraged to notice the art along the walls of the Sanctuary and find time to reflect on each station. You are invited to come to the church any time during office hours (Monday -Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and Friday, 9:00 am - Noon) and reflect on the Stations using the provided prompts for meditation. On Good Friday, drop in anytime from 11:00-1:00, for a time for contemplation and prayer with accompanying music.

The "Stations of the Cross" are installed at First Baptist Greensboro through partnership with the Racial Equity and Justice Team of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, and will be displayed at CBF-NC's annual meeting at First Baptist, March 14-15.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO CONNECTIONS

February 18, 2024

FEBRUARY CHURCH CONFERENCE | Today after Worship

Today after worship, we hope you join us for our February Church Conference. We will have a light soup lunch as a part of our time together and donations will be accepted. Our meeting will include updates from church leadership on the life and ministry of First Baptist Greensboro.

CBFNC ANNUAL GATHERING VOLUNTEERS | March 14-15, 2024

We are hosting the CBFNC Annual Gathering this year. All CBF churches in North Carolina will gather together for a time of fellowship and learning on our campus. We need your help with hospitality for this event! If you are able to help volunteer on either Thursday March 14 or Friday March 15, or both days, please let us know. There is a First Baptist Greensboro t-shirt involved too if you are able to volunteer. Let us know if you can volunteer by filling out this short form or reach out to Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org).



EASTER FLOWERS | Submissions through March 20

Make a donation towards the purchase of flowers for the Easter cross in honor or in memory of a loved one. Donations of \$10 per name will need to be placed by Wednesday, March 20. Please designate "In memory/honor of" and "by whom" when placing submissions to Keighley Johnson (keighley@fbcgso.org) so that they can be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

FEBRUARY BOOKCLUB | Thursday, February 29 at 5:30 pm

We will be gather together at the end of this month to discuss our February book "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande. If you are interested in being a part of this discussion, please come to the Living Room (Room 205) and join us! If you need help getting a copy of the book, connect with Courtney Willis.

SUMMER AT FIRST BAPTIST GREENSBORO | YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S

SUMMER TRIPS AND CAMPS

We know families are already making summer plans and we want to be a part of them! Our Summer 2024 at First Baptist Greensboro page has all youth and children's summer trips and camps in one place. Save the dates and sign-up for these life-changing weeks this summer. Learn more at the QR code or at: fbcgso.org/summer-2024



LOOKING AHEAD

February

- 18 | Church Conference
Handbell Rehearsal | 5 pm
- 21 | Lenten Midweek | 5:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 7:15 pm
- 23 | Merge (Ministry for 4th & 5th Graders)
- 25 | INSPIRO Concert | 3 pm
Youth Group | 4 pm
Handbell Rehearsal | 5 pm
- 28 | Lenten Midweek | 5:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 7:15 pm
- 29 | Bookclub | 5:30 pm

March

- 3 | INSPIRO: Triad Youth Choir | 2:30 pm
Youth Group | 4 pm
Handbell Rehearsal | 5 pm
- 5 | Lenten Midweek | 5:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 7:15 pm
- 10 | INSPIRO: Triad Youth Choir | 2:30 pm
Youth Group | 4 pm
Handbell Rehearsal | 5 pm
- 17 | Spring Celebration | Following Worship
- 21 | NCTCF Concert | 7 pm
- 24 | Palm Sunday
- 28 | Maundy Thursday Service | 6:30 pm
- 29 | Good Friday Guided Meditation
in the Sanctuary "Stations of the Cross,"
11:00 AM -1:00 PM
- 31 | Easter Sunday

April

- 1 | Offices Closed

PASTORAL STAFF

CHRIS CHERRY, YOUTH & FAMILIES
BUCK COCHRAN, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY
SETH HIX, MUSIC (INTERIM)

ALAN SHEROUSE, SENIOR PASTOR
AMY STARR RUSSELL, CHILDREN & FAMILIES
COURTNEY WILLIS, FORMATION & CARE

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