



Long Live God! by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

I had only recently come awake to Christ. My heart was full of praise. I was eager to enter the drama of his saving acts. Around that time, *Godspell* became a hit Broadway musical. I had the soundtrack and one Easter Sunday, my father took me to see a visiting production. The crucifixion scene against a chain link fence was simple, searing and sad:

“O God, I’m dying,” sang Jesus.

“O God, you’re dying,” echoed the disciples.

“O God, I’m dead,” and Jesus sang no more.

“O God, you’re dead,” mourned the disciples.

Then quietly, the music turned. All our hopes rode on a simple, wistful call:

“Long live God. Long live God.”

Then, as resurrection dawned on the disciples, the band struck up and the soft wish became jubilant proclamation, “Long live God!” Jesus was alive. The show ended by taking us all the way back to the beginning lyric, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord!”

Back then, there wasn’t much music that sang of Jesus in a style

similar to songs I liked on the radio. *Godspell* filled an important gap. It brought me deep in the story of Jesus. Though several decades have passed, this musical still works to bring us Jesus exuberantly, creatively and winsomely. This April 5-7, it will be a great prelude to Easter.



FRIDAY, APRIL 5 AT 7 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 4 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 7 AT 4 PM

As ever, we will enter the story of Holy Week through a joyful Palm Sunday service, followed by egg hunts, a crawfish boil and tons of games and fellowship. The mood turns contemplative on Thursday with the Service of Shadows. Once again, we will enter the passion narrative through the voices of our great actors. This year, for the first time, we will mark Holy Saturday with a simple service called “The King Sleeps.” We will read and pray as we consider the prayers at hand for Jesus as he underwent death. Such entry into the sorrow releases great joy on Easter Sunday. We gather in the

terraced garden for the sunrise service and then two festive services in the Sanctuary. These are the days when we draw closest to Christ Jesus as we join ourselves to his story. See you at the House! And know that especially in these holy days, I love being your pastor,

Gerrit

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

rEcess	Apr 5
Godspell	Apr 5-7
Palm Sunday	Apr 14
Service of Shadows	Apr 18
Good Friday - Church Offices Closed	Apr 19
Holy Saturday Worship	Apr 20
Easter	Apr 21
Church Offices Closed	Apr 22

UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

Spring Picnic	May 1
Created for Connection Workshop	May 3-4
"Found" Children's Musical	May 5

ONGOING EVENTS

Weekly Lenten Worship - Weds. at noon through April 10
 Sunday Evening Prayer at 5 pm

BIRTHS:

March 22, 2019 - Evangeline Boles
 Daughter of Lillian and Ethan Boles
 Granddaughter of Ashley and MacGregor Magruder

BAPTISMS:

March 10, 2019 - Georgia Ann Klingman
 Parents are Caitlyn and Derrick Klingman
 Grandmother is Sherry McKinley

IN MEMORIAM:

February 1, 2019 - Lora Maye Cross

February 21, 2019
 J.B. Norwood - Husband of Jane Norwood

February 24, 2019 - Sue Ottinger

February 27, 2019 - Evelyn McDonald
 Mother of Jill Garner

March 16, 2019 - Sara Bateman

March 22, 2019 - Trudy Rucci
 Mother of Pete Rucci

March 24, 2019 - Mary Perry
 Mother of Tootie Perry

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of . . .

APR 7 . . . the parents and grandparents of Linda and Wayne Barker.

APR 14 . . . our parents; Rev. James and Mary Lee Logan and Frank E. Holloway, Sr. by Eden and Ronnie Logan.

APR 21 . . . Norman Saurage III, Maude and Norman Saurage, Sr., Alma Lee and Norman Saurage, Jr., and Flora and Gustave Spaht by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

APR 28 . . . Reverend Dellic Alphonse (Jack) Martin, father of Beverly Setliff, and Louella Eznack Setliff, mother of Richard Setliff, by Beverly and Richard Setliff.

My Cup Overflows by Elizabeth Parker and Jaime Carnaggio

In well-known Psalm 23, David is so content, so overwhelmed with emotion in light of God's provision and promised blessings that he proclaims, "My cup overflows!" Women, in some capacity or another, all yearn to feel like David in this psalm. We are all thirsty for God's Word and God's grace and blessings. We want to be "filled up" to the brim, to the point of overflowing! We show up with our empty cups, ready to be filled with God's goodness and joy.

But often, we underestimate our ability to pour into other's cups. We believe the lie that we can't really contribute unless our own cup is overflowing. Or maybe we miss opportunities to pour into others because we believe that we have nothing to offer, that our presence doesn't really matter. Or more boldly, we don't pour into others because it's inconvenient or uncomfortable for us, or because it means sacrificing something we don't want to give up like our time or energy. But the truth is, on a daily basis, we can simultaneously feel "full" in some ways and "empty" in others. And so it's possible to approach each day with an empty cup in one hand and a water pitcher in the other.

Women's ministry requires all of us. We are a complex gender, full of wants and needs, desires and dreams and emotions. We are

absolutely not one size fits all. So we need all hands on deck. We need to retrain our brains to believe the truth that we do have something to offer, that our presence DOES matter. After all, God created us for a reason, giving each of us our own characteristics. And wherever he has put us, we express the gifts and strengths he's given us. Even in our everyday lives,

we have endless opportunities to be ministers of the gospel. God can use anyone (and we mean anyone!) to spread gospel truth and to be his hands and feet. We are all different, but we are all united in Christ.

So come thirsty. Come with an empty cup in one hand because the good news, more than anything else, is that God's Truth is sufficient to fill us up. God is

always ready and willing to pour out his grace. Come ready to drink up God's goodness and joy.

But also come with a water pitcher, ready to serve his life-giving water to others. Come willing to be inconvenienced. Come willing to move into empty spaces and stir one another up in love using the gifts and talents he has instilled in you. Come willing to nurture other women in their relationship with Christ. It's a weighty and important responsibility, but oh, what a privilege it is!

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Women's Spring Picnic



Women's Ministry invites you to its annual Spring Picnic. Join us in the terraced garden on Wednesday, May 1 at 11.30 am for a gathering for all women of the church and their

guests. We'll have great fellowship and a wonderful lunch in a beautiful setting.

This is the perfect opportunity for you to invite a guest. The cost is \$10 per person. Register at fpcbr.org or at the Connection Center. Childcare is available. Please pack a nut-free lunch for your child.

A Celebration of Worship



Please come celebrate Nancy's last Sunday as worship leader and arrive early for the 9 am service. Join former worship team members on April 28, as we sing some of our favorite

classic worship songs before service begins at 9 am. Singing begins at 8.40 am. Catherine and Mac McCoy, Neal Gowdy, Randy Burt and many others will be returning for the celebration. God is good!

Holy Week Worship and Events

Wherever you happen to be, we want to invite you to spend Holy Week with us. With multiple services, our hope is that you would connect with us, celebrate with us and have a great experience with your family and friends! Holy Week is filled with sacred prayer and worship in anticipation of the celebration of our Savior's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday April 14, 2019 at 10 am No Sunday School



Our annual Palm Sunday festival is April 14 at 10 am with our procession around North Boulevard. A jam-packed combined worship service occurs after the procession. Egg hunts, small animal petting "zoo," bungee jumping, pony rides, facepainting and a balloon artist for the children will follow worship. You'll want to dress casual for Palm Sunday. Save your fancy attire for Easter. We'll have crawfish for lunch: \$10 per person or \$40 max per family. Hotdogs will be available for the children.

Egg Hunt Details. Children's Ministry will provide Easter eggs. Please bring an Easter basket for each child. The Easter Egg hunt will take place in our terraced garden and is for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade. Children in Kindergarten and under will hunt for eggs with their class during the worship service. Our Quest Kids (4th and 5th grade) get to help hide eggs during service! Please contact Kendra Bremer (kendra@fpibr.org) if your 4th or 5th grader would like to help hide eggs.

Maundy Thursday April 18, 2019 at 7 pm



We observe the Thursday before Easter, April 18, as a sacred day, remembering that Jesus initiated the sacrament of communion on that night and washed his disciples' feet, giving them the commandment to treat each other the same way. (That's why it's called Maundy Thursday from the Latin word for mandate, or command). Our service includes a very quiet communion, the dramatic retelling of the passion narrative and a visit in silence to the garden where the entombment of the body of Jesus will be reenacted. As the stone is rolled across the tomb, we sing "Were

You There?" It's a very moving moment. This also sets up the particular joy of meeting in the same place at sunrise on Easter. This service is suitable for children elementary school aged. Childcare is available for ages 5 and younger.

The King Sleeps: A Holy Saturday Service



April 20, 2019 at 11 am

Jesus plunged farther, died deeper and was crushed finer than we can imagine on Holy Saturday. Join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary for this Holy Saturday service.

Easter Sunday April 21, 2019 Services Times: 6.30, 9 and 11 am



We gather around the stone rolled away in the garden at 6.30 am for a brief service followed by breakfast. Then we have two festive worship services in the Sanctuary at 9 and 11. If rain, the sunrise service will meet in the Dunham Chapel. Sunday school classes will meet as usual.

We eagerly look forward to the sweet joy of keeping Holy Week and Easter with you!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

7.45 Chapel Communion
9 am Contemporary
11 am Classic Reformed

APRIL SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Texts are subject to change.

APRIL 7, 2019

Exodus 24: 7-8; Mark 14: 24; Isaiah 42: 6-7;
Jeremiah 31: 31, 33; Luke 22: 20

APRIL 14, 2019

Palm Sunday - One 10 am Worship Service
Luke 19: 36-40; Philippians 2: 5-11

APRIL 21, 2019

Easter Sunday:
6.30 am, 9 am and 11 am Worship
John 20: 24-29

APRIL 28, 2019

1 Samuel 1: 1-21

PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS
Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS
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225.387.2287

brchristiancounseling.com

Created for Connection Couples' Workshop, May 3-4

Lost some of that loving feeling? Looking to get more connected? Closer? Want to stop the bickering and the same-old-arguments? Trouble communicating?

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center is offering a couples' workshop May 3-4 based on Dr. Sue Johnson's book, "Hold Me Tight" and Emotionally Focused Therapy. Emotionally Focused Therapy is a research-proven therapy which shows significant improvements to relationships

in 90% of couples who participate. Details and registration are online at brchristiancounseling.com.



Returning Hearts Sign Up Deadline - April 14

The deadline to sign up for the Returning Hearts Celebration at Angola Prison is April 14. 600 volunteers are needed to make this special day for inmates happen when they are permitted unhindered, meaningful time with their children. The celebration is Saturday, May 18. Sign up at lifelineglobal.org or fpcbr.org.

My Cup Overflows *continued from pg. 2*

We believe that God has intentionally placed every woman in this church, not only to grow our faith upward, but also to grow it outward, with one another. Our prayer is that Women's Ministry would be a safe, honest, God-glorifying place where we can come together in study and prayer, serve one another in love, and connect in deep, meaningful ways. Our prayer is that we come together with compassion, attentiveness and grace-filled sacrifice, and then we take our water pitcher outside of the church walls, outside of Sunday morning and into the mission fields God has called us to. Our prayer is that each of

us come with an empty cup in one hand and a water pitcher in the other. Let's encourage a culture of water pourers, and may our cups overflow!

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1: 6-8).