

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

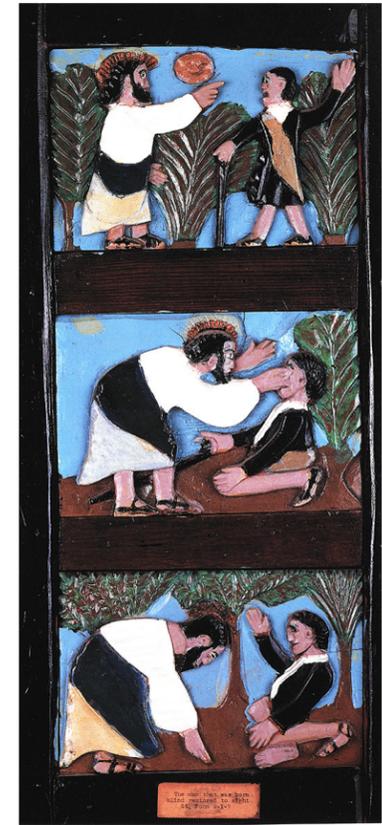
Lent is a season of repentance, confession and examination. During these formative forty days we are gifted with time to take a closer look at our lives and our participation in the building of the kingdom as Christ's disciples. We are also given the opportunity to consider the many new possibilities offered to us as disciples of Christ. May we walk together through this season with intentionality and care.

A WORD ABOUT FBC

First Baptist Memphis is a Midtown congregation that seeks to follow Christ by practicing hospitality, community, dialogue, and service.

- We value diversity in our membership and believe it enriches our journey and ministry.
- We strive to be a family of faith where all can belong.
- We value the voice of every child of God and strive to hear the voice of God in one another.
- What we do inside our walls prepares us to share God's love across the street and around the world.

The Radio Bible Class (10:30 am) and this service (11:00 am) are broadcast live on radio stations ESPN 680 AM, and ESPN 92.9 FM. Sermons are available online at www.fbcmemphis.org.



The Man That Was Born Blind Restored to Sight, Elijah Pierce

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

We walked down the path to the well-house, attracted by the fragrance of honeysuckle with which it was covered. Someone was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the spout. As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten—a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that “w-a-t-e-r” meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free! There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away.

—Helen Keller



Rev. Randy Hyde, D.Min.
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dennis McDuffie
Music Ministry Interim

Holly Hatton
Children & Youth
Ministry Coordinator

Stacey Graves
Director, First Baptist Day School

Aaron Foster
Organist

David Córdoba Hernandez
Supply Pianist

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THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION

Welcome Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

The prelude provides an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God by being still and quiet.

Prelude *Arietta* E. Grieg
David Córdoba Hernandez, *pianist*

ADORATION

Call to Worship from *Psalm 107* Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Invocation Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

Hymn of Praise *Great Redeemer, We Adore Thee* REDENTORE

***Great Redeemer, we adore Thee, God of mercy, love, and grace;
Warm our hearts with Thine own being, May we see Thy kindly face!
Great Redeemer, we adore Thee, God's great love to us Thou art;
We adore Thee, Great Redeemer, Reign supreme in ev'ry heart.***

***Great Redeemer, we implore Thee, Drive our doubts and fears away;
Cause Thy face to smile upon us, Shine on us Thy light today!
Great Redeemer, we adore Thee, Highest hills proclaim your fame;
We adore Thee, Great Redeemer, We, your children, praise your name.***

***Life and love from Thee are beaming, sin and sorrow melt away;
King of kindness, God of Glory, Fill us with Thyself today!
Great Redeemer, we adore Thee, Life and liberty are Thine;
We adore Thee, Great Redeemer, Fill us with Thy love divine.***

Call to Confession from *John 3*

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

Prayer of Confession from *Numbers 21*

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints.

We grumble about the evils of our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.

We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.

We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them.

Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon from *John 3*

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

PROCLAMATION

Children's Sermon Holly Hatton

Gospel Reading *John 9:1-41* Holly Hatton, Ray Hatton
Trudy Hatton, Cathy Wilhelm, Dennis McDuffie

Anthem *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* John Carter
Cathy Wilhelm, *soprano* Trudy Hatton, *alto*
Dennis McDuffie, *tenor* Ray Hatton, *bass*

I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me. No turning back.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where-ere I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Though none go with me. still I will follow. No turning back.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me;

His faithful follow'er I would be for by His hand He leadeth me.

I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back.

Prayer of Preparation Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde and Congregation

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Message Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde
What Jesus Said . . . About Sight

RESPONSE

Hymn of Prayer *Amazing Grace* NEW BRITAIN

***Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.***

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!***

***Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.***

***When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.***

Reminder of Giving Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

Meditation Music *The Old Rugged Cross* Don Hustad
Aaron Foster, *organist*

Congregational Response 253 *Doxology* OLD 100TH

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayers of the People Rev. Ray Hatton

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Encouragement Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

Benediction Rev. Dr. Randy L. Hyde

Hymn of Response *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* DENNIS

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

***We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.***

***When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall all be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.***