

## WORSHIP

Sunday,  
April 5, 2020

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook  
Live and Radio

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

**Proclaimer:** Jim Dant

**Scripture:** Psalm 38; Matthew 21:1-11

**Sermon:** The Dark Side of Fame

**Access Livestream here:**

<https://livestream.com/fbcgreenvillesc>

**Access Facebook Live here:**

[/www.facebook.com/pg/  
fbcgreenvillesc/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/fbcgreenvillesc/videos/)

**Access Radio (Sunday morning only)  
here:**

89.3-HD4, 91.9 FM, 92.9 FM

**MidWeek Fellowship Live**

**Wednesday, April 1**

6:15pm via Livestream and  
Facebook Live

**Teacher:** Jim Dant

**John 11:** He's Been Dead Four  
Days!—The Church's Impatience

**Viral Vespers**

Weekdays at 7pm  
via the Church Website



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

This year's Holy Week will be like no other. We are accustomed to gathering in our Sanctuary to wave palms on Palm Sunday, gathering in the upper room (the Parlor) to remember the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, gathering in the Carpenter Chapel to venerate the cross on Good Friday, and then cramming (in the holiest of ways) into the Sanctuary for our Easter celebration. This year, as you probably suspect, we will gather online for each of these celebrations. I hope you will create the space to make each of these services meaningful and memorable for your family.

Here are a few suggestions and the schedule. 1) Create a worship space in your home for these Holy Week services. Have a designated table, draped with a cloth, adorned with a candle (that can be lit at the beginning of each service), and add a 'symbol' of each service (a palm branch for Palm Sunday, bread and juice for Maundy Thursday, a cross for Good Friday and a flower or stone for Easter). 2) Make sure your computer is nearby and visible. 3) Be present in this holy space for each of the Holy Week Services.

Palm Sunday Service, Livestream  
Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Service, Livestream  
Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm

(This service will include the serving of communion and a contemplative recital presented by Shelton Ridge Love. Please have bread and juice available for your household to share as communion is led via Livestream)

Good Friday Service, Video  
Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm

(This service will virtually walk the 'Stations of the Cross' that hang in our Carpenter Chapel. Readings and prayers will be offered at each station.)

Easter Sunday Service, Livestream  
Sunday, April 12, 10:30 pm

(Soloists, prayers, instrumentalists and sermon will join to help us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.)

This will be a Holy Week like no other. I hope you will join us and invite others to do so.

—Jim

## Centering Prayer Group Invites You

The Centering Prayer Group invites you to join us in a weekly Centering Prayer practice, Tuesdays from 11:00am to 11:20am. Join us in this practice from wherever you are. We don't have to be in the same room in order to pray together! A guideline to the four simple steps of Centering Prayer can be found at <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-1>. —Susan D'Amato

# Touch Without Touching

The contrarian impulse can bring out the worst in us and our best. When momma put the cookie jar on top of the refrigerator, she only made it a more interesting challenge. Tell a population what they can't do, like "practice social distancing," and there will always be a cohort that has to defy those regulations in the most flamboyant ways possible. The contrarian impulse is as predictable as it is dangerous, but I have been impressed by how members of our church have responded to the Covid-19 restrictions in rebellious ways that are positive, healthy, creative and—dare I say it?—spirit-led. Their "inner contrarian" has been provoked. They know that what is needed is not social distancing but *physical* distancing. In anxious times,

we need (safe) socializing more than ever. We need connection. We need ministry.

For many who were already feeling out-of-touch with friends or disconnected with loved ones, this pandemic has generated a fresh determination to connect, to make that call, write that email, send that letter, or find some other way of taking care of the personal business we have put-off for too long. Why does it take a threat to make that become so clear? I love this poem by Lynn Ungar. In the days ahead, I hope it inspires you to find creative ways to touch without touching.

—Kyle

## Pandemic:

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the  
Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has  
become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and  
beautiful.  
(You can hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives are in one  
another's hands.  
(Surely, this has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move,  
invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar 03-2020



## Calling ALL Graduates!

If we are gathering as a group on Sunday, May 17, First Baptist Greenville will celebrate and honor the graduating classes of 2020—high school, college and graduate school. The day will begin in the AYMC, when graduates and their families are invited to share in a time of breakfast and fellowship with our Youth Family. During worship at 10:30am, graduates will wear their graduation caps and gowns and will be individually recognized and given a special gift from the church. A special luncheon for our high school graduates will follow worship.

Gathering in person or virtually, we ask that every graduate submit a recent photo of themselves (by Sunday, April 5) so we can recognize them in our church newsletter, *The Branch*, and display pictures of all of our graduates on the bulletin board outside Jim Dant's office.

**All graduates who are connected to FBG and are graduating this May, please help us by completing a Graduate Info Form no later than Sunday, April 19!** You can find the form by using the link listed below.

Link to Graduate Info Form—<https://goo.gl/forms/AGFq9ZzCIfNXAKyq1>

—Mary Carol and Will

# Psalm 23

Each week in Sanctuary Choir rehearsals, we usually have a brief meditation on one of the psalms and share prayers with each other. The psalms are some of the richest literature we have and have always been a source of comfort in difficult times. Even though the choir is not meeting, here is a devotion on Psalm 23 from Frederick Buechner's *Secrets in the Dark*. I hope it will be a source of peace and hope for all of us this week:

*In the last part of the beloved Psalm 23, the psalmist stops speaking of God as a shepherd. God becomes instead the host at a great feast. A table is prepared for us the way the table of Holy Communion is prepared for us, and "in the presence of our enemies," God prepares it because there is no other place. Our enemies are always present. I mean the enemies that come at us from within – doubt and self-doubt, anxiety, boredom, loneliness, failure, temptation. Let each of us name our special enemies*

*for ourselves. How well we know them. How long we have done battle with them, and how long we will doubtless have to go on battling. But no matter. The table is prepared. Our cups are filled to running over. We are anointed with this occasion itself – with the sense it gives us of how much we need each other, you and I, and how the party wouldn't be complete without every last one of us; the sense we have of being not just strangers, acquaintances, friends, momentarily gathered under the same roof, but fellow pilgrims traveling the same long and bewildering road in search of the same far city. It is a rare glimpse that we catch at this enchanted table. The feast that is laid for us here is only a foretaste of the feast to come. The old enemies will be vanquished at last. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

—Vivian

## AYMC Pulse

COVID-19. If you're like me, you're so tired of everything you read and hear revolving around it. It has disrupted our routines, changing the way we must think and do things. For the time being, we can no longer go to our normal everyday places. We're staying home. Everything as we know it and have known it is changing. We're all sitting more, me included, whether it's reading, watching TV, working on the computer or just talking. While our minds need to stay active, our bodies do, too. Physical exercise is a proven stress reliever. So, what do we do, and what can we do while we're home to stay active? Here are a few suggestions on ways you can keep moving inside the house:

- Try to stand more. It burns more calories than sitting.
  - Clean your house. Double bonus!
  - Put on your favorite song and dance like nobody's watching.
  - Don't fast forward through commercials. Get up and walk around the house during those, and I'm not talking to the refrigerator and back.
  - Do simple body weight exercises. Look up some that would be appropriate for your age and fitness level.
  - Practice standing up and sitting down in your favorite chair.
  - Walk up and down the stairs.
  - Take a virtual exercise class on YouTube.
  - Download an app like Zoom and get with some friends and do a virtual workout together.
  - The AYMC is having a few virtual yoga and group fitness classes during the week. If you are interested in joining these, let me know, and we can get you included.
- As it should be always, make exercise as integral to your life as sleeping and eating. You'll feel better, I promise!

—Mittie

## Upcoming Internet Events

(links on church website)

- 3/30 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 3/31 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/1 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study
- 4/2 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/3 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/5 10:30am Palm/Passion Sunday
- 4/6 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/7 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/8 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study
- 4/9 7:00pm Maundy Thursday
- 4/10 7:00pm Good Friday
- 4/12 10:30am Easter Sunday

## Need a Ride to the Doctor's Office?

The Medical Appointment Transportation Committee offers rides for members to and from medical appointments. Request a week in advance when possible. Contact Committee Chair Mary Rankin rankinma@yahoo.com or 630-2894.

### LIVING GENEROUSLY Financial Needs as of 3/28

\$623,076

### Receipts as of 3/26

\$521,016

## Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

March 30-April 5

Kyle Matthews  
551-0829 (m)

April 6-12  
Matt Rollins  
346-0971 (m)

If you are unable to reach this minister at the above number, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "199" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies."

## Wednesday Supper

Our caterer, Uptown Catering, will continue to provide Wednesday Night Supper for us. Visit their website (<https://theuptowncompany.square.site/s/shop>) to view their "to go" menu options. There are individual meals as well as family meals from which to choose and look for the Wednesday Night Special choice. This option is available at our regular FBG Wednesday night pricing! The special pricing only applies to Wednesday night meals, but their services are available all the time. All meals will be available for drive-thru pick up at the kitchen door—you don't even have to get out of your vehicle! Make your reservation by 6pm on the Monday prior.

### April 1

Sliced Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes & Zucchini Bake, Butter Basil Carrots, Spinach Salad, Dessert

### April 8

Chicken Pot Pie, Rice, Fried Apples, Salad, Dessert

## Care List

as of 3/30/2020

### Hospitals

St. Francis Downtown: Rosalind Tedards, Nancy Sanders

Greer Memorial: Shirley Smith

### Rehab

Brookdale-Greenville: Betty King

NHC-Mauldin: Freddie Foster

### Recently Discharged

Elaine Sarratt

### Sympathy

...to the family of Ann Jones.

...to the family of Mabel Bunting.

...to Marisa Handal and family in the death of her grandmother.

...to Howard Renda in the death of his step-father.

## Beautiful Messes

*Our Youth Family wrote stories of the beautiful messes in their lives to share during our Youth Sunday service. In the next weeks, we will share some of them here.*

Whenever I feel tense or anxious, I like to dance. When I am sitting or waiting in school or even between plays at church basketball the rest and calm are exactly the opposite for me. The restless energy is just messy. I will do a little dance move or a spin to help calm myself. It's not to be a distraction or to get attention. I'm sure when we see others who are nervous, they are not thinking about getting more attention. They need a little assurance that everything is going to be OK. Dancing is a beautiful way to unwind and helps me feel free.

—Kate Fuller, 7th Grade, Beck Academy

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