

Session decided to resume in-person worship on Palm Sunday March 28, along with the return of our usual YouTube livestream via www.fpcindep.org. The Palm Sunday Processional and Easter sunrise service will not be held this year as we look forward to their return in 2022. We will continue to offer a limited music program and observe all the safety practices from last summer, including facemasks if you're able, social distancing in pews and throughout the building, hand sanitizer, and pre-packaged Communion elements so we don't have to pass worship materials. Other church groups and facility rentals may resume now at their own discretion with strict adherence to local safety practices. Thanks to all our members and staff for continuing to make First Church as safe as we know how as we look forward to being together again in our work and worship as followers of Christ.

Circle 7 and Lydia's Purple Circle have combined for a lady's Bible Study via Zoom. The study is on the Ten Commandments. We are meeting on the first Thursday of the month except for April. On that month, it will be the second Thursday because of Maundy Thursday. All other ladies not in those circles are welcome to join us. Please let Joy Young or Pam Long know if you're interested so we can send you the Zoom link. Please call the church office at 816.252.6662 for contact info.

Committee Chairs and ChristCare Small Groups, Sunday school and other group leaders! Please gather your information needed for the events, dates, and times to be submitted for the church calendar. The **Annual Joint Session/Deacon meeting & calendar planning** is on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Hall. Please submit your events and meetings by Monday, May 10, either by email, a phone call, or dropping it by the office. Thank you so much for your help.

If you or a family member is **graduating this year** from high school, college, or business school, we'd like to share the news of your accomplishment. If you're **continuing in your studies**, we'd like to send you a gift card. Please contact the church office with your name, address, and graduation information by emailing or calling or emailing Cyndi at 405-203-4111, fpcindep.dce@gmail.com. **Scholarship applications** are available in the Parlour, on the credenza and due by May 15

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. All this is gathered up in that emotion which most cleanses us from selfishness because it is the most selfless of all emotions – adoration.
William Temple

In Service to All God’s Children and Their Families

THE CALENDAR – TODAY, MARCH 28 PALM SUNDAY

Adult & Youth Sunday school (WH) 9:15 a.m.
Children Sunday school (C.E. wing, church) 9:15 a.m.
Worship (Noisy Offering) 10:30 a.m.

Today’s scripture readings: Psalm 103:1, 19-22 (p.p. 542, 543)
Mark 14:1-2, 53-65 (p.p. 50, 51 & 52)

THIS WEEK

Scouts (WH) Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Young Life (WH) Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
TOPS weight-loss program (weigh-ins only) (WH) Thursday, 8-9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday (FPC via Zoom) Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Reader’s Corner (via Zoom) Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Good Friday (FCC on Zoom and Facebook live) Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Harvester’s workday (meet at WH) Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 EASTER SUNDAY

Adult & Youth Sunday school (WH) 9:15 a.m.
Children Sunday school (C.E. wing, church) 9:15 a.m.
Worship (Communion) 10:30 a.m.

THE CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

We recognize the **One Great Hour Of Sharing** offering during the season of Lent. This offering makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, oppression, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Collection envelopes will be available on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Easter goodie bags will be handed out to all children on Easter Sunday after worship, in the Parlour next to the Sanctuary, provided by the Christian Education Committee.

In the final weeks of Lent, **we continue to look at Jesus’ journey to the cross** through the eyes of those who were there with him. Our weekly sermon series titled "Were You There" began on March 7 with a sermon titled **“Misjudging Eyes,”** as the disciples confront the woman for anointing Jesus with expensive perfume. (Past sermons available via www.fpcindep.org) Our journey unfolded from there:

March 21 – “Sleepy Eyes,” when we, too, get worn out and can no longer stay awake for Jesus.

March 28 – “Condemning Eyes,” as we stand alongside Jesus, judged so wrongly. (This will be in-person worship).

April 1 – Our series continues at 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday with a Zoom online devotional titled **“More Than Meets the Eye,”** as we look into a single grain of wheat and a drop of wine to glimpse God’s vision for humanity. (Link will be emailed March 25 and April 1).

April 4 – This is the morning we look with **“Angel Eyes,”** seeing beyond the empty tomb to the fulness of Easter and the sure promises it brings. (This will be in-person worship.)

LOGOS will resume in-person activities on Wednesdays, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 7 through May 26. We are in need of 1-2 people to cook for LOGOS two nights per month. Please contact Cyndi at fpcindep.dce@gmail.com or 405-203-4111, if you are interested.

Your 2021 Pledge envelopes are in the Parlour and ready for pick up.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE, JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN & NOISY OFFERING

(Noisy offering cans are located in the back of the Sanctuary.) Cyndi Chamberlin

*HYMN *Ancient Words* (see music folder)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Savior, out of your great love you willingly laid down your life so that we might be reconciled to you. We are awe-struck by the extravagance of your gift and humbled by the magnitude of your love. We confess that we have failed to “go and do likewise.” We have failed to love our neighbor, much less our enemy. We have failed to trust you, afraid that you might alter our agendas or require us to sacrifice our time or money. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our casual attitude about your journey to the cross and our forgetfulness of what our sin really cost you. (Silent prayer and confession.)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*GLORIA PATRI (*Glory to God*) (see music folder)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 103:1, 19-22 Pages 542, 543

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 14:1-2, 53-65 Pages 50, 51 & 52

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Were You There: Condemning Eyes” Rev. Dave Carlson

WE RESPOND IN JOY AND GRATITUDE

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory *Evening and Morning* John Eggert

*Doxology (*Praise to God*) (see music folder)

*Prayer of Dedication

**All who are able may stand*

*ANTHEM *Praise the Lord with Thy Whole Heart* FPC Trio

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt)
In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* No. 39
(*sung in your hearts or at a whisper*) (see music folder)

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful* Page 654

*POSTLUDE *Fuga in E minor* Johann Pachelbel

The Peace Candle on the communion table is a reminder for us to pray for world peace. We invite visitors to ask the ushers for a peace candle and an explanation of its origin, and to pass it on to the church of your choice.

**All who are able may stand*

LITURGIST
Judy Lewis

TODAY'S GREETER
Ronnie Brumfield

NEXT WEEK'S GREETERS
Clarke & Dana Taylor

WE GATHER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

PRELUDE

Exultation

G. Winston Cassler

CHORAL INTROIT

Ride on King Jesus
Processional of the Palms

USHERS TODAY
Elroy & Mary Aslakson
and Kay Best

USHERS NEXT WEEK
Elroy & Mary Aslakson

ATTENDANCE- MARCH 21 **Online Worship - 58**
 Sunday school - 25

CHARACTERPLUS TRAIT: Initiative

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

SUNDAY Zech. 9:9-12 1 Tim. 6:12-16 Matt. 21:12-1	MONDAY Jer. 11:18-20, 12:1-17 Phil. 3:1-14 John 12:9-19	TUESDAY Jer. 15:10-21 Phil. 3:15-21 John 12:20-26	WEDNESDAY Jer. 17:5-10, 14-18 Phil. 4:1-13 John 12:27-36
THURSDAY Jer. 20:7-18 1 Cor. 10:14-17, 11:27-32 John 17:1-26	FRIDAY Gen. 22:1-14 1 Peter 1:10-20 John 13:36-38	SATURDAY Job 19:21-27a Heb. 4:1-16 Rom. 8:1-11	

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Director of Christian Education/Children, Youth & Adults
Music Director/Praise Director
Organist
Sexton/Custodian
Secretary

Dave Carlson
Cyndi Chamberlin
Paul Smith
Glenna Hagelin
Merry Oliphant
Debbie Sullivan

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the coming reign of God!

Many: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in humility and righteousness!

Many: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Hosanna! Save us, O God!

Many: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: Let us worship God!

* BLESSING OF THE PALMS

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you redeemed the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem alongside Jesus, who was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of suffering and the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation No. 463, verses 1, 4 & 5
(sung in your hearts or at a whisper)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *(greet each other with a wave and a nod)*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

(You may use "debts," "trespasses" or "sins" as you feel accustomed or led.)

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 debts as we forgive our

debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil,

For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.