

The Messenger



facebook <http://facebook.com/FCCGarland>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVGPNXkThBvrfgMHsEOsHbg>

Instagram <http://instagram.com/fccgarland>

Apr 6, 2022

Moment's Reflection

"Ride on, ride on in majesty! As all the crowds hosanna cry."-Hymn, recalling John 12: 12-13

Like so many good hymns, it's relegated to a special season in the church year. We don't sing it often. We sing it on Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus choosing to return to the city he'd visited numerous times growing up.

Festive as we like to sing it, the hymn recalls a bittersweet day. From the time Luke says he "set his face to go to Jerusalem," this was never going to be an easy visit. In what little we know of Jesus' childhood, Luke recalls, "every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover." But of course, this time he returns not to recall childhood memories of a beloved city, but to anticipate his imminent crucifixion.



Truth is, I love the tune more than the words. We sang the tune to a different set of words during one of those Sunday evening sing-a-longs from my childhood, *"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak,"* and not as it's listed in our hymnal, *"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"* (#191). I remember the Sunday we sang it in our worship a few years ago. It nearly took my breath away. I knew I'd heard it before and started digging for an explanation. Different words, same tune. Canonbury. The tune is Canonbury. It evokes all kinds of powerful coming-of-faith memories.

So much of my Christian faith is like this. I recall tunes that carried the days of my first understanding. *"Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow"* (#194). The tune reminds me of the first Maundy Thursday service I attended. Or, *"Christ Arose!"* (224). I always used to love exaggerating the hymn's sweet, calm first line so that I could equally exaggerate the stirring, near guttural refrain that follows, "Up from the grave He arose."

This Sunday we mark the day Jesus came back to Jerusalem to face the inevitability of his Cross. We'll do it with great fanfare. Larry Johnson and a Brass Ensemble will play songs fit for a King. You won't likely know the names of them, but you'll recognize the melodies. Later in the service, some of our church's young people will process with palm branches. The choir will sing a Palm Sunday anthem.

As much as I'll enjoy each of them, part of my spirit will keep rehearsing this Sunday's first hymn, *"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty."* The tune, the melody, will take me back to earlier years when Sunday night Song Leader, Don Fox, at First Christian Church in Lindsay, Oklahoma, invited us to sing this song. I was 9, 10, maybe 11 years old. I was just beginning my own journey of faith. We sang, *"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak."* I did hear, and have spent my life speaking. The melody and the journey seem almost synonymous. -Dan, Holy Week 2022

Disciples Women

Disciples Women Installation of Officers

"Weave Us Together"

Join us for a Boxed Lunch

Saturday, April 30 at 11:00am

- ◆ Rebecca Fetzer will install new officers
- ◆ Jeremiah will come back for a visit
- ◆ Blessing Box Offerings will be collected
- ◆ "Weave Us Together" Runner will be dedicated

Boxed lunch cost is \$8.00.

RSVP by text or phone to

Laurie Owens (214-499-6810) by April 21.

You may pay her when you sign up or at the luncheon.



WELCOME

New Members

Last Sunday we had the great joy of welcoming two new members into our church family! Please welcome them.

Marla Finco, who has been attending through the past year. Marla transfers her membership by reaffirmation of Christian faith from the Methodist Church in Richardson. Marla was baptized the in the Methodist Church in Hale Center, Texas. She is married to husband, John, and has a daughter, Gracie, who is PhD candidate in structural anatomy.

We also welcome, **Leann Keeney**, who transfers her membership by reaffirmation of Christian faith from the Methodist Church in Richardson. Marla was baptized in 1973 at the Lavon Baptist Church. She is married to Kent, and has a son, 43, and two grandchildren, 10 & 12 years.

Interesting note. Leann and Marla are relatives with a past that goes back to days in Hale Center (near Plainview, near Amarillo).

Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022—10:00am

Procession of Palm Branches

Maundy Thursday Agape Feast

April 14, 2022—7:00pm

Good Friday Prayer Service

April 15, 2022—12:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 17TH

WORSHIP SERVICE, 10:00AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST,
11:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL, 11:15AM

Sermon Preview—Palm Sunday April 10

Sermon: “Into Hell, for a Heavenly Cause”

Scripture: Luke 19: 28-40

Synopsis: I remember those strange words old man Simeon pronounced at his dedication. “This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, to be a sign that will opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will revealed.” I remember Jesus after his baptism, ushered straight to the desert where he was tempted at every angle to give up his vocation. I remember the time in Mark’s Gospel when Jesus’ family was summoned to take him home because in the words of many, he was acting like a crazy man. I remember that God-awful first sermon he preached to his hometown and how some of the Elders nearly killed him for it. I remember Jesus asking the disciples who people said he was, because he had a hunch that nobody really knew who he was; not even Peter who said the right words but evoked the wrong meaning. I remember Jesus setting his face to Jerusalem and all the would-be disciples who found his call too inconvenient. I remember the time that Jesus tried to help people, but nobody would let him. I remember that scene, emblazoned in my mind’s eye, from the time I was old enough to imagine Jesus. In the Garden, praying, at nighttime, looking so forlorn, and hearing him ask, “Take this cup from me.” I remember all this, consider all the burden that he carried. He was sent, John says, to save us. And he wants to do that. But my Lord, how hard was it? Harder than he might’ve imagined. And yet, here he comes anyway. After all the times he’s seen how bad it could be, how staunch the resistance, he comes into Jerusalem. They tried to tell him not to go there, but he goes anyway. Don’t you wonder why? Can’t you look at the humanity of Jesus and be curious as to how a man keeps his focus in the face of so much opposition, stupidity, pig heartedness, and jealousy, to do this. He doesn’t have much time left. Just a few days. Why couldn’t he just stay at Bethany? But he comes to us. He come to Jerusalem. And this Palm Sunday, I think I hear the whisper of a song in the background. A snippet from the song, “*The Impossible Dream*.” To march into hell for a heavenly cause.

There’s a line in the Apostle’s Creed that says, “he descended to the dead.” Maybe on Palm Sunday he did exactly that. He wept over the city, Luke says. Then he came down the mountain into the city. To save us. To do this. This was his heavenly cause. And he had hell to pay for choosing to be a Savior like this. Thank God for his holy persistence on our behalf. We didn’t deserve him, and yet he came to us anyway.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Group Meetings

4:00-5:30pm

April 10

April 24

Youth Sunday Worship

10:00am

May 1

Week of Compassion continues Apr 10



With the continuing humanitarian crisis unfolding in Europe following the onset of the Russian invasion, this year’s annual Outreach Offering will focus on world need through Week of Compassion.

Learn more here: <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/stories/responding-in-ukraine>

Spiritual Development Offerings

Looking for a way to stay connected to your church? Log on to some of our spiritual development courses. Have questions? Confused about how to get the Zoom link to work? Contact the church office at 972-272-5423.

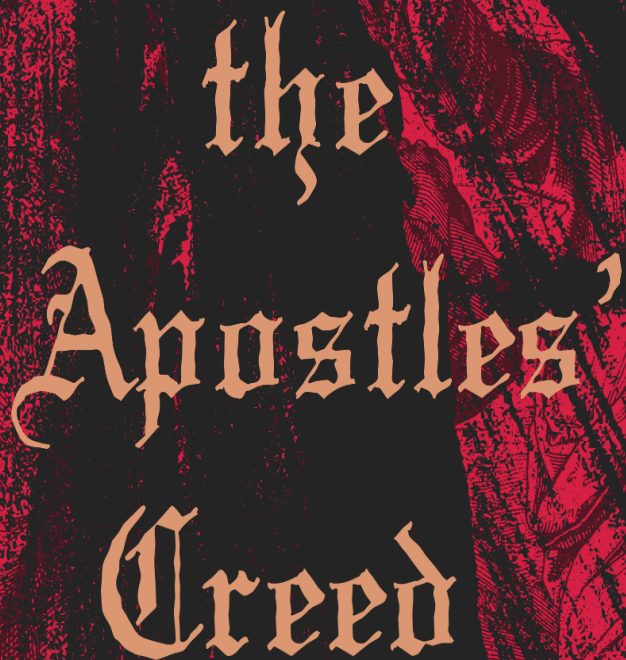
Study the Gospel of Mark - Thursdays at 12pm

Rev. Dr. Douglas Skinner invites you to join his continuing bible study. The course will continue an ongoing in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark.

The class will meet weekly, Thursdays at noon. Check your email each week for the link to the Zoom meeting.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK



the
Apostles'
Creed

CONTINUES
through May

Mondays
7:00pm via Zoom

Led by
Dr. Shaun Brown

prayer REQUESTS

Circle of Fellowship

Marilyn Fowler
Judy Grasham
Cindy Kyle
Les Perry
Bob Potts

Fishers of Families

Blake Collins

God's Messengers

Wanda & Maurice McGill

Hands of Faith

Brenda Crosthwaite
Glenda Lee
Nancy Worden

Shepherds

Patty Crow
Helen Smith



IN SYMPATHY

We give our condolences also to
Robert Potts and family on the
passing of

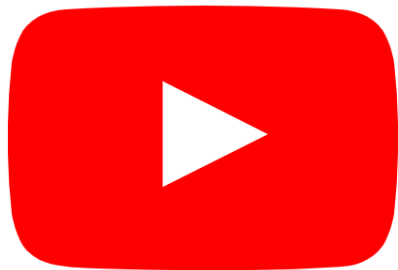
Tommie Potts,

who died on Thursday, March 3rd
at the age of 86.

A memorial was held at the
church on March 19th.



**Livestream our
worship services
on YouTube**



Click here

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVGPNXkThBvrfgMHsEOsHbg>

**Join us for the
North Texas Area Men's
Breakfast
this month!
Sat., May 7th
8:30am
Fellowship Hall**



**Rev. Al Walker,
Community Regional
Minister for
Reconciliation and
Anti-Racism for the
Region**