

SPECIAL EASTER EDITION 2024



EASTER AT FBCT Good Friday Service Friday, March 29 • 6:00 PM

An evening focused on the Cross.

Easter Sunday! Sunday, March 31 • 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Celebrating the Risen King!
Don't forget to bring your flowers for
the cross outside by the fountain
and plan to get a family picture there!

Please join us in the **8:00AM**
OR 11:00AM service to
relieve overcrowding in the
9:30AM service. All three
services will be the same.



Seasoned Adult Minister: Bob Smith
SAM Assistant: Debbie Arrington
SAM News Editor: Judy Bryant
SAM News Assoc. Editor: June Mathews
Newsletter Design: Stephanie Entrup

This newsletter is prepared and emailed
monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist
Church Trussville, Alabama. Suggested
information to be included in an upcoming
SAM newsletter may be emailed to sam.news@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will
be available at the church Welcome Center
and Events Center.

BELIEVERS, REJOICE!

Easter is a time of rejoicing, reflection and renewal. The ladies in the Wednesday morning Precept Bible Study just completed King David's Psalms Chapters 1 – 41. They were tasked with writing their own Psalm. I can think of no better time than this Easter season and no better way to rejoice and to honor our Lord than for all of us to do the same.

A Psalm by definition is worship. Worship Him with Praise, Prayer, and Song in your Psalm, using any form you wish. Your Psalm does not have to be poetry.

Search your heart and ask Him to help you. Reflect on who He is and who He is to you; reflect on your personal experience with Him; and give Him all glory. Do not do this for me or anyone else; do it for Him. Nothing pleases Him more than you and I spending time in His Presence!

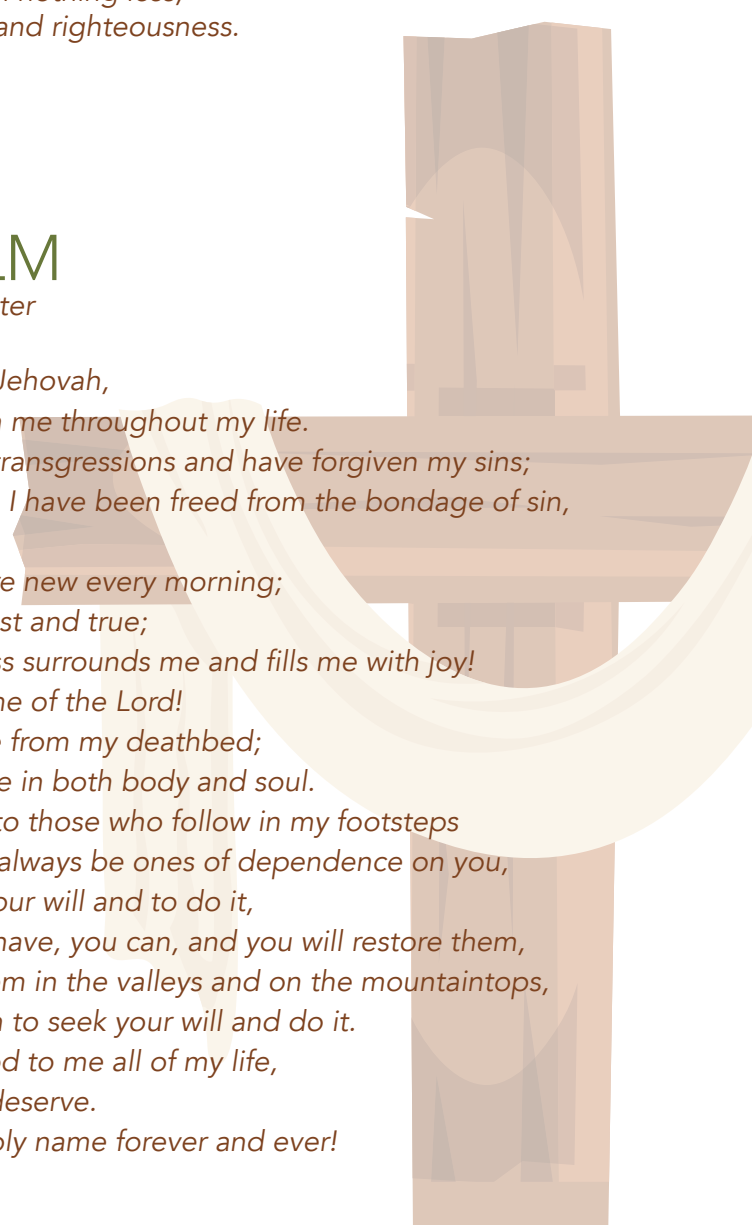
*Our hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I Peter 1:3-6*

Bob

MY PSALM

Written by Ann Foster

*O, Lord, our great Jehovah,
You have been with me throughout my life.
You have seen my transgressions and have forgiven my sins;
Yet even now when I have been freed from the bondage of sin,
I continue to sin.
But Your mercies are new every morning;
Your love is steadfast and true;
Your loving kindness surrounds me and fills me with joy!
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
You have raised me from my deathbed;
You have healed me in both body and soul.
Be gracious, Lord, to those who follow in my footsteps
That their lives will always be ones of dependence on you,
Desiring to know your will and to do it,
Believing that you have, you can, and you will restore them,
You will be with them in the valleys and on the mountaintops,
You will cause them to seek your will and do it.
You have been good to me all of my life,
Much more than I deserve.
I will praise your Holy name forever and ever!*



EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW:

The Reasons for the Seasons as We Celebrate our Christian Faith through the Church Calendar

By Alan Long



As we've enjoyed the beautiful buttercups over the last month and have seen flowering trees awakening from their slumber, we are reminded of the imminent arrival of Spring, that wondrous season of new life. We know that following Spring is Summer, then comes Autumn and ultimately Winter sets in again. These seasons are quite familiar to us as they return in a cyclical fashion each year.

Historically, the Christian church has celebrated its own seasons and holy days within the church calendar. Very early in the church's history, the community of believers gathered on Sunday to hear the apostles' teaching, pray, celebrate the Lord's Supper, and fellowship with each other. But soon the need came about for the teaching and spiritual formation of converts, and the seasons and holy days of the church calendar developed to meet that need. The major events observed follow the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as well as early events in the life of the church.

The entire calendar is marked primarily by worship on Sunday as a reminder of the glorious resurrection of Jesus. The church year begins with the season of **Advent** that starts four weeks before **Christmas**, the first holy day to be celebrated. The 12 days of Christmas (from which the song originates) extend from December 25 and lead up to the celebration of **Epiphany** on January 6, which remembers the coming of the three wise men to see Jesus. An "epiphany" in general is a revelation, realization, or insight. The coming of Jesus into the world and his recognition by the Magi as God certainly qualifies as an epiphany to celebrate!

The next major day on the church calendar is **Ash Wednesday**, which marks the beginning of Lent and occurs 40 days before Easter. **Lent** is intended to be a period of sober reflection, turning away from actions and patterns of behavior that lead us away from God and seeking spiritual renewal that prepares us for Easter. This season began with the early church practice of excommunicating those whose serious sins had caused a scandal within the church. These individuals would be reinstated in the church at Easter after a period of penitence that included fasting and wearing sackcloth and ashes. The focus of Ash Wednesday today is on sorrow

for sin and fasting. Some denominations will place ashes on the foreheads of believers both as a tangible marker of this penitence and as a reminder of our mortality.

Palm Sunday begins the celebration of Holy Week that leads up to Easter. It remembers the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey when people cut branches from trees and laid them on the road (Matt. 21:8).

Maundy Thursday celebrates the last supper of Jesus the Thursday before Easter. The word "maundy" comes from *mandatum*, the Latin word for commandment. It recognizes the command of Jesus to love one another. The emphasis on this day is on communion and serving each other. **Good Friday** recalls the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. Historically, **Holy Saturday** has been a day of fasting in preparation for Sunday.

Easter is likely the earliest Christian holy day to be celebrated. It is rooted in the Jewish Passover feast celebrating the exodus from Egypt and entrance into the Promised Land. For the early Christians, Jesus's death and resurrection were the fulfillment of this feast. It is on Easter that we celebrate the wonderful resurrection of Jesus, which not only confirms his deity but makes possible the resurrection of all who believe. The church calendar then ends the year recognizing the coming of the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost** and the establishment of the church.

An ancient prayer at Epiphany ends with these words, "O God, may you mercifully grant those who know you by faith the ability to see your glorious majesty." May that be true of us as we see God's loving story of redemption through the seasons and celebrations of the church.

