

April 2025

Third Presbyterian Church



Participating in Holy Week

Before we hear the stories of all “they” did to Jesus, we might stop and look at ourselves this Holy Week. That is what Lent calls for, isn’t it?

By John Cleghorn – from the Presbyterian Outlook

It is easy enough, upon reading Mark 15:16-20, to conclude that the Roman soldiers in the story are straight from central casting. We can all summon an image from a movie or TV show — big, burly, mean-looking types adorned with a cloak, shoulder pads of armor, spears and shields.

We can assume that they were just doing their duty that day – harassing and tormenting Christ – as with any enemy of the empire but also much worse. This was, after all, the man who claimed he was the son of God. Better to overdo the usual humiliation with this one, lest anyone but Caesar ever be called king again.

This happened after Pilate handed Jesus over to the crowds ... and after the crowds pronounced his sentence, “Crucify him!” ... and then flogged him ... and handed him over to be crucified. And the mocking was the least of it. They spat on him, struck him with a stick and forcefully pressed into his forehead a crown made of thorns to pierce the skin and draw blood.

Yes, it’s easy to write off the Roman soldiers as the oppressors of that day — and they were. Maybe that’s a little too easy. The thing about Lent is that we are called to not leave it there. We are called to examine the story more deeply — as part of our own self-examination.

We might ask: what is it in people that seeks to oppress others? To hold them down? Keep them in their place lest the hierarchies we are so used to be upset? What is it, perhaps, in us? Any of us?

Resmaa Menakem has some ideas on that subject. He is an author and licensed social worker who wrote a recent New York Times best-seller titled *My Grandmother’s Hands*. In it, he focuses on how all of us may hold some kind of trauma in our bodies. And if left untreated, that trauma is going to find its way out, possibly in very harmful ways.

Our society harbors an epidemic of unhealed trauma. It is passed down from generation to generation to generation. This kind of traumatic retention can flow through our culture as well as our individual DNA. Yes, you heard right — what Menakem calls these “soul wounds” can take a genetic form that can be inherited down through the generations. This new field of scientific inquiry has a name, epigenetics

In *My Grandmother’s Hands*, Menakem explores how this generational trauma can shape us — Black and White in America. He explores how the pain inflicted on those who were enslaved became so deeply rooted in DNA that, for some, the trauma for Black people today in America is just as real as it was for their enslaved ancestors 400 years ago or their grandparents in the days of Jim Crow or today’s children in the era of George Floyd and other cases of violence against Black people. Menakem says it’s all passed down.

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But he doesn't stop there. He is equally empathetic to others of us. White folks today, he writes, may have soul wounds in our DNA ingrained in us from past generations who did the oppressing, the enslaving — and all that came with that most brutal form of dehumanization.

Now I know, I know: it seems as if we have wandered far of course from that chaotic scene in the courtyard of the Roman governor's palace where the crowd and the soldiers were mocking, whipping and spitting on Jesus. But stick with me.

Before we move too breezily through this third act of the drama of Holy Week, before we count it as just a small part of the story of all "they" did to Jesus, we might stop and look at ourselves. That is what Lent calls for, isn't it?

I inherited the hobby of genealogy from my late father — and the gift of all the deep family digging he and his mother did. Our family's story, you might say, isn't that unlike many families who come from European descent.

Somewhere around 1740, William Cleghorn, my 7th great grandfather, immigrated to America from Scotland. He was another lowland Scot, a blacksmith who lived on the land of the powerful Hamilton family. He was one of many Scots who fled the religious and other oppression of the British, as far as we know.

Yet it wasn't long after he arrived in America, got married and settled some land in what is now Rutherford County, North Carolina, that he himself became the oppressor. His final will and testament include the names of a handful of those he enslaved as he passed them on as "property" in what has been called America's original sin.

And there is more: His descendants later were among the first White folk to interact with the native Cherokee people of northwest Georgia. We know how that worked out as the Cherokee were swept westward and their land was taken.

That's the family story that I carry in my body. It's the one I am to wrestle with. Lent is a time for that wrestling.

The question we might ask of the Roman soldiers in today's Scripture, the question the Scripture asks, the question we can ask of ourselves is: What is it inside the human spirit that insists on this cycle of brutality? What is it in our society's systems and structures that retain oppression of others — beyond us as individuals?

And that leads to some other questions: Where do we see Roman soldiers today? Who are the oppressors and who are the oppressed? And, as with our look at this third act in our series of sermons, where are we?

Perhaps, if we ask those questions prayerfully, humbly, on our knees and deep within our hearts, we will find our way back to the other character in the story — Jesus Christ.

Each season of Lent we spend 40 days working our way up to the cross. We spend Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday kneeling at the foot of the cross. That's a good place to ask: How, O Lord, might we be scarred red deep down? What are our soul wounds? How do they shape who we are and what we do? And how might we find help, strength and wisdom in God to do the needed work of repentance, repair and, in time, even reconciliation with those we have harmed?

The spiritual writer and leader Parker Palmer asked: "Who were we before the world changed us?"

In these weeks, we might add: How, with God's help and mercy, do we get back there?

John Cleghorn

Rev. John Cleghorn is pastor of Caldwell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received a Louisville Institute grant to study examples of where faith communities provide affordable housing on their campuses, and he sits on the Outlook board.

LOOKING AHEAD

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13th at 11:00 AM

Place your palms in the cross on the lawn as you leave.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 20th at 11:00 AM

Living Cross on the lawn – please bring flowers to help decorate the cross.

Fellowship time after the service.

PULPIT SUPPLY LOOKING AHEAD

April 6th – Commissioned Pastor Sid Etherington

April 13th, Palm Sunday – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

April 17th, Maundy Thursday – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

April 20th, Easter – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

April 27th – Commissioned Pastor Sid Etherington

May 4th – Rev. Don Martin

May 11th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

May 18th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

May 25th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

June 1st – Rev. Don Martin

June 8th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

June 15th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

June 22nd – TBD

June 29th – Marcy Wright

July 6th – Rev. Don Martin

July 13th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

July 20th – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

July 27th – Rev. Leigh Gillis

OFFERINGS

March 2nd – \$2726 in-person, \$140 online

March 9th – \$2445 in-person, \$422 online

March 16th – \$930 in-person, \$30 online

March 23rd – \$930 in-person, \$30 online

March 30th - \$830 in-person, \$1261.80 online

NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS

Please begin using our new email address – thirdpresbyterian757@gmail.com

MOST ASKED FOR ADDRESSES

Teri and Ken Howard
109 Windsong Drive
Macon, NC 27551
757-274-3311 - Teri

Dot Grandstaff
The Gardens of Virginia Beach
5620 Wesleyan Drive #247
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-583-2244

Peggy Russell
Aspire at West End
5020 Sulky Drive, # 415
Henrico, VA 23228
Phone: 757-387-9301

Lexi White & Marc Cahill
89 Winchester Dr.
South Kingstown, RI 02879

Judy & Tim Cook
2909 Arc Road
Mobile, Alabama 36605-4466
251-385-0615

Carter Griffin
855 Scotch Hall Way #108
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Happy Birthday!!!

April 1st - Dennis Griffin
April 15th - Jim Rudiger
April 20th - Amy Griffin

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people and families in your prayers, that they might be lifted up through your conversations with God:

- Claudia Cary
- Artie and Milinda Derrenbacher
- Jessica and Ray Fitzgerald
- Ginny Davis
- Steve & Claudia Glover
- Carol Maxwell's Mom
- Holly Gaff
- Nancy & Steve Babor
- Toy Hefner
- Judi White - Lexi's Mom
- Heather Sipe
- Debbie Roberts - Sybil's daughter
- Sgt. Christopher Roberts - Sybil's grandson
- The Family of Larry McKinney
- The Family of Ruth Bray
- Our Church
- Our Community
- Our Nation



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY
IN-PERSON AND LIVE STREAM AT 11 AM**

Below is the Zoom link where you will be able to see those leading worship and along with parts of our liturgy. Below is the most updated link, phone number and password.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/605837516?pwd=V0R5VmNCQ2Mraml1TFdOVXpGMEpiQT09>

If you do not have computer access, you can call in with your home or cell phone using Zoom's dial in option.

Meeting ID: 605 837 516

Password: 23518

Phone: 312-626-6799

CHURCH OFFICE

If you need assistance, please feel free to call 757-587-7576 and leave a message (phone is being forwarded to an elder), send an email to (thirdpresbyterian757@gmail.com) or call one of the elders. Thank you!

**PW BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP
APRIL 8TH, 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH AND BIBLE STUDY**

The author describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts." We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

Join us Tuesday, April 8th for lunch, (bring a sandwich or snack) lively discussion and fellowship. We meet in the church conference room at the end of the hall and have zoom access if you are unable to join us in person.

ART SHOW AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN

Calling all local artists and those that like to shop at art shows. Second Presbyterian Church is having an Art Show on Saturday, July 12th. There are no fees to sign up for a table. Set-up will be from 9 am – 11 am and open for business from 11 am – 4 pm. The Smoked Biscuit food truck will also be there that day. If you are interested, you may contact Peggy Troyer at 210-250-2628 for questions or to reserve a space.

SHEPHERD'S LIST 2025



Calvin Presbyterian Church

2901 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA 23518

(757) 587-1591

• Food Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

• Third Saturdays of the month
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The food pantry serves Norfolk zip codes 23518 and 23503. Those in need of assistance may obtain a referral from any of the participating churches.

Pantry Wish List:

- 25 oz Apple Sauce
- 16 oz Baked Beans
- 24 oz Beef Stew
- 15 oz Peas
- 15 oz Green Beans
- 1 lb 13 oz Canned Fruit
- 32 oz Jelly
- 18 oz Peanut Butter
- 32 oz Pancake Mix
- 24 oz Syrup
- 1 lb Rice
- 8.25 oz Tuna Helper
- 6 oz Tuna
- 15 oz Spaghetti O's
- 15 oz Thick Soup
- 64 oz Juice
- 12 oz Luncheon Meat
- 7.25 oz Macaroni & Cheese
- 13.75 oz Mashed Potatoes
- 13.7 oz Oatmeal Individual Packs
- 16 oz Spaghetti Noodles
- 26.5 oz Spaghetti Sauce
- Dry Milk, Individual Packs

Please, no baby food, coffee, tea, sugar, pickles, olives, condiments, tomatoes, cranberries, canned milk, crackers or mushrooms.

Amy Griffin

757-618-3006

*Dee Glover

*Steven and Claudia Glover

Ginny Davis

Nancy and Vernon Barham

Dorothy Grandstaff

Marguerite Duke

Peggy Russell

Teri Howard

Sybil Crooks

Ginny Keisel

Claudia Cary

Stacy Apelt

757-583-5872

Nancy and Steve Babor

Jim Rudiger

Carol and Tom Maxwell

Mary Ann Shepard

Kayla and Bryson Shepard

Margaret Chewning & Dan Cudney

Di Babineau

Debbie and Ray Platte

Cheryl and Fred Holtz

Mike Gallond

Jessica Fitzgerald & Family

Tom Maxwell

757-531-9851

**Brittany French

Dave and Jenni Joyce

Holly Gaff and CJ Jones

TJ McKinney

Lexi White and Marc Cahill

Deb King

Joseph Bray

Darlene Pick

Amy and Dennis Griffin

Artie and Milinda Derrenbacker

Stacy Apelt and Judy Floyd Apelt

The Rapacon Family - Amanda, Manny, Christian, Samantha, Rachel, and Peter

*no email-please call

**text



April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	2 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	3 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	4	5
6 11 am Worship and Communion In-person and Virtual	7	8 12 pm PW Lunch & Bible Study 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	9 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	10 7 pm Civic League	11	12 10 am – 12 pm Clothes Closet
13 Palm Sunday 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	14	15 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	16 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	17 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service & Communion	18	19
20 Easter Sunday 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual 12 pm Fellowship Time	21	22 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	23 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	24 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	25	26
27 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	28	29 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	30 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting			



Third Presbyterian Church
8065 Carlton Street
Norfolk, VA 23518

CHURCH STAFF

Amy Griffin, Clerk of Session
Holly Gaff, Treasurer
Amy Griffin, Financial Secretary
Joseph C. Bray, III, Organist/ Choir Director
Clara Barnes, Sexton
Lexi White, IT Facilitator

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Men

Tom Maxwell, President
Fred Holtz, Vice-president

Memorial Committee

SESSION

Building & Grounds

Stacy Apelt

Stewardship

Amy Griffin

Witness & Outreach

Tom Maxwell

Worship

Amy Griffin

Administration and Personnel

Stacy Apelt, Amy Griffin, Tom Maxwell