

March 25, 2016

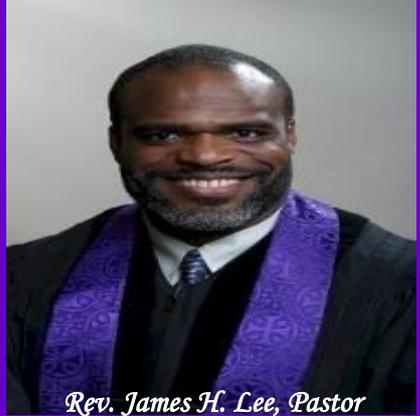


NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Word from Our Pastor



Rev. James H. Lee, Pastor

Dear NCFA Family and Friends

Holy Week is coming to an end. We have had an opportunity to celebrate Jesus as our King riding in on a donkey or a colt, as described in *Zechariah*. We have had an opportunity to consecrate His body for burial through the tears, hair, and nard from Mary's alabaster box. Tonight at 7pm in our Fellowship Hall we participate in the service known as "Tenebrae," which is Latin for "shadows," using readings and extinguishing of lights to mark the darkness in which Easter will come. It will be a time of reading Scriptures, reflecting on what we have heard and experienced, singing songs, eating at the Lord's table, washing the feet of our family members, and changing of liturgical colors.



Please be mindful of the events that will take place in the coming days:

- ◆ Sunday Morning 8:30am Worship: The Rev. George Holland, preaching
- ◆ Sunday Morning 10:15am Worship: Pastor James Lee, preaching
- ◆ Sunday after Worship, 12:30pm: Easter Egg Hunt and the joint celebration of the Resurrection Eggs with Genesis and Turning Point, followed by a picnic (Bring folding chairs and picnic food—plus some to share, if possible.)

I am especially grateful for Oliver Smith, who will be taking family portraits on Sunday. Not only will it be a blessing to your families, it will also help us to have updated pictures of your family for our directory.

Recently, I was gifted with a butterfly. It has been a labor of love and a spiritual discipline for a friend. He recognized that I liked butterflies and so he blessed me with one. Butterflies were symbols of grace for me when I was young; however, today they mean new beginnings, transformation, and hope. My hope was increased today when I saw a couple walking through our neighborhood.



She usually walks alone. Today he was on his scooter and driving alongside his bride. And then my hope was flamed when I watched a grandfather gather his pennies to pay for food for his grandson. Like most of us, the grandson had total confidence in his grandfather and wanted more. When I heard the grandfather explain that he would have to wait until he had more money, my heart broke. I asked him for permission to buy the grandson's toy. He graciously agreed, and the grandson thanked his grandfather, and they both thanked me. God is good all of the time. With all of the tragedies going on around us, it is too easy to become cynical, but glimpses of hope are just waiting to be recognized and celebrated. Keep your eyes and hearts open to new possibilities.

Please continue to lift up the family members of those who have joined the Church Triumphant and all of us who remain on this side of Glory. We are a people who grieve with hope as we live today and tomorrow.

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

God Bless You All

Pastor James H. Lee

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNEXION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

STEPPING UP



**Thinking with Christ's Mind
Loving with Christ's Heart
Serving with Christ's Hands**

Featured below are just some of the areas within NCF where your time, talents, or treasures are currently encouraged:

* EASTER, MARCH 27th *

1. Bring a favorite cut flower to place on the large Cross outside our sanctuary Easter morning. (A supply will be provided for anyone who forgets.)
2. Bring Hot Cross Buns or some juice for our refreshment times before or after worship this Sunday.
3. EASTER EGG HUNT AND PICNIC—March 27th at Noon
Bring a picnic lunch + some to share at our cross-campus picnic following the Easter Egg Hunt. Picnic chairs too!
ALSO: Please help provide more plastic eggs stuffed with candy (not chocolate, please, due to meltage!) Bring before worship.
Contact Mary Mojica if you have questions:
maryjomojica@yahoo.com or 512-963-0915

* **CHILDREN & YOUTH** *

EASTER EGG HUNT AND PICNIC – March 27th at Noon

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL'S "SURF SHACK" – June 13-17

The kickstart Beach Party-themed Picnic is Sunday, June 12th, and the week will culminate with a June 19th VBS/Father's Day celebration during our worship service. Help is needed NOW and LATER!!

- (1) Teachers and helpers are needed in the Nursery and Church School.
- (2) Building props and preparing crafts will begin soon.
- (3) Volunteers willing to support a fantastic VBS experience are happily encouraged to join the C&Y team.

Contacts:

Elder Danita Nelson, atinad787@gmail.com;
Elder Randy Mojica, mothachozen@gmail.com

* **CARING AND SHARING** *

A new NCF member needs weekly rides *to* church, just one way.
Can you help occasionally?

Contacts:

Deacon Scott Phillips, scotteric@gmail.com
Carol Saddington, saddington@gmail.com

* **WORSHIP TEAM** *

Extra hands and voices needed at this time:

1. Communion Preparation — **Contact:** Nancy Harris, mousiemama51@yahoo.com
2. Ushering — **Contact:** Elder Matthew Aldas, matthewaldas@icloud.com
3. Audio-Visual Assistance — **Contact:** Elder Robert Booth, rpbooth66@gmail.com
4. Music

Join our Psalm 150 Praise Team; come rehearse at 9:45am before worship.
Soloists welcome, please speak with Pastor Lee (2 weeks' notice works best).

Contacts:

Rev. Bill Harris, revbill66@gmail.com
Deacon Jimmy Bohn, jimmy_bohn@hotmail.com

5. After-worship - assorted helpful things — **Contact** : Elder Matthew, matthewaldas@icloud.com

6. Early Service - Now at 8:30am - Ask how you can help:
Contact Rev. Trish, geotriholland@yahoo.com

March 25, 2016



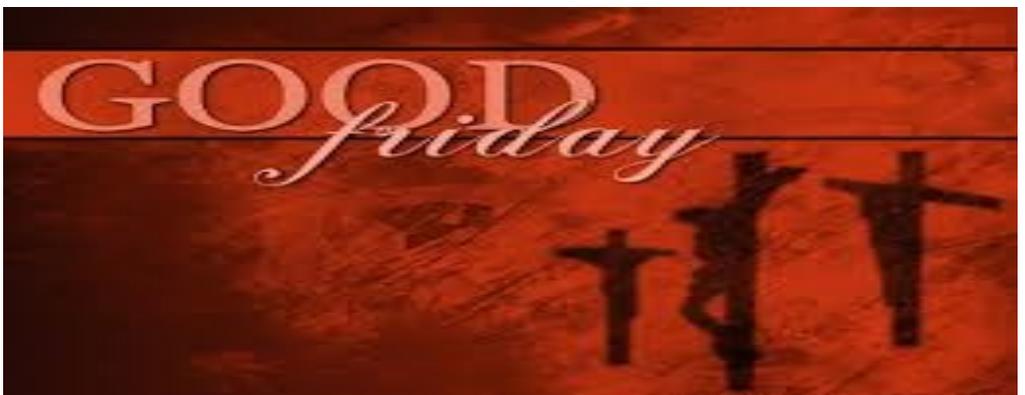
NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

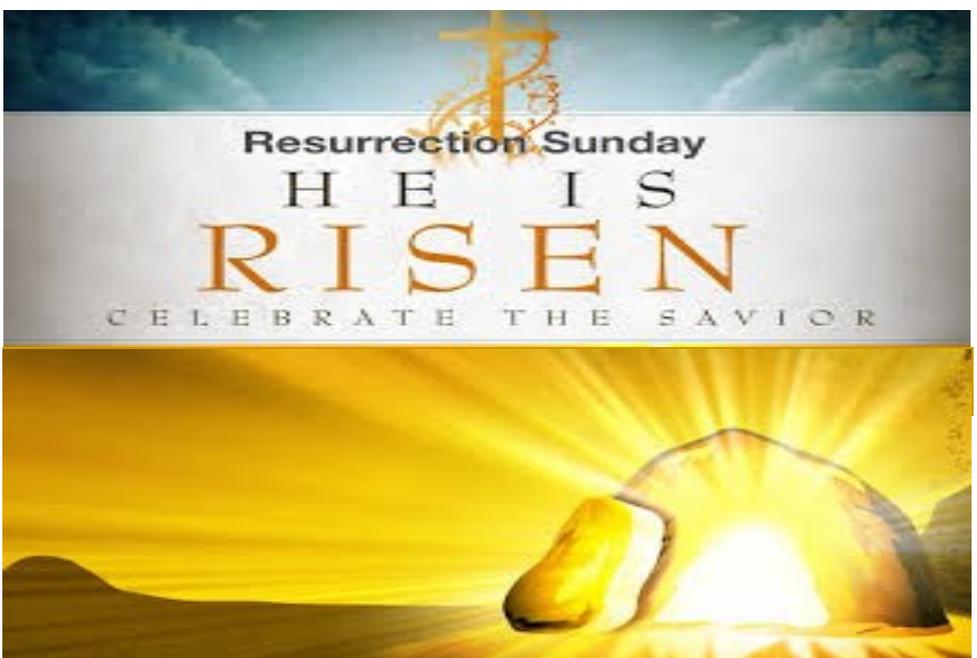
Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



MARCH TO *Easter*



TENEBRAE GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 25TH
7:00PM-1507 WILSHIRE



RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
MARCH 27TH
8:30AM AND 10:15AM-1507 WILSHIRE

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

Easter Sunday Family Egg Hunt and Picnic

Please join us after worship!! We will have a joint Easter egg hunt with Genesis and then share in a picnic on the beautiful campus. If you are able, please donate stuffed eggs, minus chocolate, to be hunted.

If you have an extra Easter basket, please share that too with a child that may find themselves with out one.

Please bring your own packed picnic and a nice blanket or lawn chair to sit on as we take a moment to break bread and reflect on the blessing of Resurrection and what is before us. If you have extra, please bring to share with those that may not have prepared a lunch.



Contact Mary Jo Mojica for more details

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

THE HISPANIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION &
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT GROUP



OF
AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WHICH LIVES MATTER? HESED LECTURES 2016



FRIDAY KEYNOTE

DR. JOSÉ ANGEL GUTIÉRREZ

PROFESSOR

POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-ARLINGTON
ARLINGTON, TEXAS



SATURDAY KEYNOTE

REV. WIL GAFNEY, PH.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF

HEBREW BIBLE

BRITE DIVINITY SCHOOL
FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

Friday April 1st - Saturday April 2nd 2016
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
100 E.27th Austin, Texas 78705

With Workshops Focusing on

IMMIGRATION

BLACK LIVES MATTER

GENTRIFICATION

ALLYSHIP

To Register Please Visit: www.austinseminary.edu/hesed

For More Info :

Call (512) 404-4868 Email: Hesed@student.austinseminary.edu

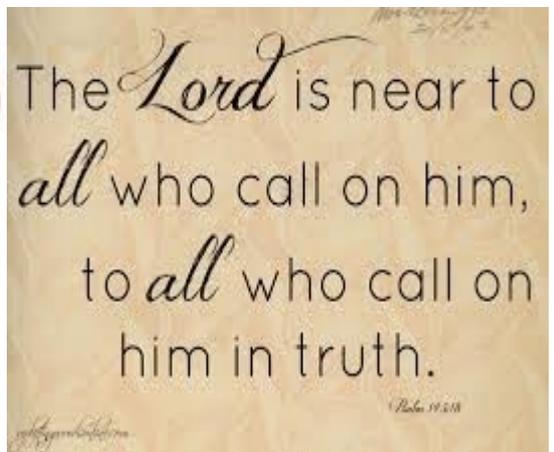
March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNEXION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



- ⇒ Praise for Jimmy's beautiful rendition of "You Were on the Cross" by Matt Maher.
- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for Elizabeth while on a journey of remembrance and celebration with old friends in Longview.
- ⇒ Lift up a brother struggling with several issues who has been admitted to a hospital. May God make a way out of no way for the brother to feel God's touch. May the influence of beloved nieces be a positive in his life.
- ⇒ Lift up healing for Kimberly. Lift up answers and options when test results become available this week. Lift up provision of all needs for the family and peace for Jimmy while has to be out of town for training over the next two weeks. Lift up blessings for Kimberly's mother who will help with the children.
- ⇒ Lift up travel mercies for Nikkie and Lee as they celebrate her father's birthday in Houston.
- ⇒ Lift up Ryan's father-in-law who is struggling with health issues. Lift up accurate diagnoses and helpful treatments. Lift up the extended families.
- ⇒ Lift up Cathy and Al. God knows the needs.
- ⇒ Lift up recovery and strength for Ben's mother. Lift up Ben's acceptance of her aging and clear vision of all he has done to help her through the process.
- ⇒ Lift up medical students and doctors in training as they prepare to take on the challenges of providing health care. Praise for the Arnold P. Gold Humanism Honor Award that Debbie received this week, which encourages students demonstrating excellence in humanistic, compassionate clinical care to become role models and leaders in the medical field.
- ⇒ Lift up a daughter having to deal with childhood/family issues all over again as they now come into her children's lives. May God provide guidance in setting boundaries and fostering good grandparent/grandchild relationships.
- ⇒ Praise for Bill and Nancy's three grandchildren present in worship today.
- ⇒ Lift up a family friend who has been in the hospital for two weeks to delay a premature birth. The doctors hope she can make it two more weeks before delivering her baby.
- ⇒ Praise! Jacob turns 9 years old on Tuesday! We thank God for bringing Jacob to Bonnie and NCF.
- ⇒ Lift up the young son and wife of Bonnie's friend Sam who died suddenly last week. Lift up his friends and extended family members.
- ⇒ Lift up a husband and wife who are going through turbulent times, possibly considering divorce, and dealing with threats of suicide. Lift up peace for their home, calm for their thoughts, and God's guidance for their actions.
- ⇒ Praise for Vernon being able to come to worship today. Continue to lift up the serious health issues faced by his siblings. Lift up Vernon and Doris as they interact with their families through difficult times.
- ⇒ Lift up Pastor Lee and NCF.
- ⇒ Lift up our country and the election processes going on.
- ⇒ Lift up a 1st grade boy at Doris's school who experienced a headache that rapidly progressed into a coma. Lift up the boy, his family, and friends.
- ⇒ Praise for the people who make NCF work and worship happen.

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNEXION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

N
C
F
A

SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA Sunday Schedule

8:30am - Worship Service
1507 Wilshire Blvd.

10:15am - Worship Service
1507 Wilshire Blvd.
9am Adult Sunday School
10am Fellowship
10:45am - Children's Church



NCEFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:30am -- Wilshire Blvd.

Come rise and shine with us
at our 8:30am service
where we glorify God
through the Word, Prayer, Hymns,
and Communion.

1507 Wilshire Blvd.

In the words of Phillips, Craig & Dean,
"Come, just as you are, to worship."
All are welcome to this traditional,
intimate style of worshipping our Lord.

NCEFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

We would love to have you and your family come share in the CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS!

We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall of Genesis Presbyterian Church on the Wilshire Campus starting at 10:15 a.m.



New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.) is a racially diverse community informed by the Bible, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and motivated to share God's love with all. In response to God's love, we are called to equip disciples to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to implore all to worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors, grow in grace, and live by faith.

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



- 1st Nancy Tallman
- 4th Rev. Lydia Hernandez
Kali Christman
- 5th Matthew Aldas
- 7th Kwasi Agbottah
- 9th Christine Wagner
- 11th Gianna Mojica
- 12th Nhyira Okyere-Mireku
- 17th Jason Lee
Christopher Davis
- 19th Hosea J. Lee
- 20th Sam Buford
- 22nd Crystal Unegbu
Jacob Pan Lew
- 23rd Nina Buford
- 29th John Harrison
Jessica Lee
Almari Alvarez
- 31st Jumarcus Daniels

Session Members

- *Rev. James Lee
Pastor/Moderator
- *Elder Kathy Smith
Clerk of Session
- *Rev. Oliver Smith
Administration & Personnel
- *Elder Bill Harris
Buildings & Grounds
- *Elder Randy Mojica
Children and Youth
- *Elder Ben Hooks
Discipleship & Men's/
Women's Ministry
- *Elder Mary Jo Mojica
Finance & Stewardship
- *Elder Robert Booth
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry
- *Elder Vernon Bailey
Missions/Evangelism
- *Elder Matthew Aldas
Worship & Membership

Deacons

- Kathryn Aldas
- Ashley Phillips
- Scott Phillips
- Carol Saddington, Chair
- Cathy Trifiro
- Roxann Vallejo

March and April 2016

- 27th Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
8:30am Early Worship at Wilshire
Rev. Trish Holland, preaching
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45m Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

*Easter Egg Hunt/Picnic
with all campus churches*

- 29th 6:30pm Men's Ministry Dinner,
7pm Study
- 30th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm Worship Service
- 3rd 2nd Sunday after Easter
8:30am Early Worship at Wilshire
_____, *preaching*
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Psalm 150 Praise
Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.
Pastor James Lee, preaching
Sunday School Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7)

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

***“Being Hopeful and Celebrating”
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40***

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

*¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
²Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” ¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

The sermon title for today is “*Being Hopeful and Celebrating*.” If we’re not careful, we can pay more attention to what’s on the news and what’s on the radio than we can in recognizing that God is at work and that there is hope. It is in recognizing that hope and celebrating God at work in our lives that we can continue to live with hope, not so cynically, but rather celebrating. I’ve come to enjoy a lot of the writings of Henri Nouwen. He said,

*“In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger, and hatred,
we have the privileged vocation to be living signs
of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds.”*

Isn’t that wonderful? We have that privilege as those who are called as the children of God, those who have been adopted, those who are heirs and co-heirs with Christ Jesus.

Today as we celebrate Palm Sunday, I want us to think about **Places**, **Purpose**, and our **Praises**.

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

***“Being Hopeful and Celebrating”
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40***

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday**

The Places

Why was it significant for them to say that they came near Bethphage and Bethany at a place called the Mount of Olives? It just sounds like any other place. But if you know historically that that would be where the Messiah would rise up, it has significance. If you think about that being the place where Jesus was at the Garden of Gethsemane, praying so intently and intensely that the sweat would fall as blood through his veins, places matter. Places matter.

Where you are today is a place, it's a stage, and it matters. You could be transitioning from one thing to another, and that's a stage, that's a place. But you need to know that God is in that place with you. Amen? So that you're not in it alone. The Sovereign God even will use these places that we find ourselves in to bring glory to God but also to bless us so that we can be blessings to other people.

The Mount of Olives....When you hear the Old Testament imagery and understand the Messiah is coming out of this Mount of Olives, this place, it's important because you can be in one place physically and be drawn to another place with your imagination, with your mind. And it moves you in special ways. Think about the places where you've had the most enjoyable times, and watch how your mouth changes....We start to smile, our outlook changes, our countenance changes just because of that experience. You have not left this place physically, but you have gone to another place that brings about joy in your life.

We have people who are oppressed, people who had given up hope, people who were in a place where they wondered, “God, do you care? Are you there? We read about you. We were told about you. But we haven't experienced you in this way.” That's the place where we are; and all of a sudden you find a man riding on a colt, a donkey, coming from that place that we heard about. That place, the Mount of Olives. Here he comes, y'all. Now what are you going to do? You gonna stay in your place? Are you going to be willing to move out of this space, this place, to go into another place where you can start recognizing this one that's coming as being the Messiah, the fulfillment of Scripture, the hope and the salvation for all of us? For them, for us.

Purpose

As Jesus is there, he sends his disciples to the village ahead of him. And even the word “sending” has purpose. God is sending us out so that others may have an opportunity to have an encounter with those who are of the way of the faith. God is ever-sending us so that we can be stretched and moved in special places. God is sending us because many times we've been told “You're not worthy and you have no purpose.” And the Lord will say “Yes, you do. And so I'm sending you.” We're being sent because if we weren't told we have to go, we wouldn't go. Knees shaking, we go. Fearfully we go forward, questioning why are we doing this. We go. But it's so very important for us to be *sent* to go because we have a purpose.

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

***“Being Hopeful and Celebrating”
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40***

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday**

A lot of times people say, “Well, what is my purpose?” Your chief purpose is to bring glory and honor to God! So, man, that’s it? Oh, no, that’s a whole lot. And then when you think about it, you realize, “Oh, no, did I really do that? It surely didn’t bring glory and honor to God.” But it is when we understand that, it gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

A couple of weeks ago during our “Time with Children,” I had them sit around and hear the quote from Einstein that says “Everyone is a genius.” And I asked them to say it: “I am a genius.” Then I asked them to turn to you and ask you to say “I am a genius.” And so why is that important? He says if you judge a fish by whether or not it can climb a tree, you realize that this has some problems. Your genius may not flow and be celebrated as much because someone is judging you like a fish, like a cat, like someone other than who you are and who God has called you to be. And your purpose is to allow that genius in you to come out.

There was a colt there in a certain place where Jesus sent them to go, and they went. You know if it was us, we’d say “Why...Where...Are you sure?” So Jesus knew some questions were going to be asked, and he said, “Well, when you get there and you untie the colt, the master will ask what you are doing. And you say, “The Master has need of it.” It has a purpose. Can God do anything without us? The answer is yes! But does God choose to do wonderful things through us and with us? The answer is yes!

And so they go: They go to Pflugerville, go to Manor, go to Del Valle to go find a colt. And then when they get there and it’s time to untie it...if that doesn’t call for faith, I don’t know what does! But they go and untie it; and there is purpose in untying because there are some things that are bound up that need to be set free.

Will you allow this Palm Sunday to be a Sunday of untying, of unbinding, of loosing so that you can fulfill your purpose? That colt’s purpose designed from glory was to allow the Messiah to ride on into the town. That colt was to be the imagery that would bring people to remembering once again that the Messiah is coming, that there is hope, and that we have not been forgotten. So they bring the colt after its master allows them to take it, and Jesus gets on the colt and he starts to ride.

Why a colt and not a big stallion? After all, he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Why not? But if you hear it from **Zechariah**, he would come with his righteousness and his victory already there but would come humbly riding on a colt. So the purpose even in the animal that he rode was to be an importance for us because, you know, we think “might is right.” You know, if you had the power, you know you can make it happen. No. It is that our Lord would say love overcomes hatred. Love does. You can have peace even when there’s violence...have hope even in midst of despair. You can have joy even when there is pain. That’s the kind of Lord that we serve. So the purpose is special.

But then there’s a purpose for running and getting palm branches when you find out he’s coming. And leaving that place where you were to go to a place and get these branches and lay ’em down. And if you don’t have a branch, we’re gonna lay the cloaks on down so the dust would not rise up as he’s coming down the dirt. We would show honor; we we would show praises. There’s purpose in all of that, purpose in praising *“Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord and brings forth salvation!”*

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNE~~X~~ION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

***“Being Hopeful and Celebrating”
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40***

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday**

Praises

I wanted to make sure everyone had palm branches so that if you think about anything that you said or you thought would never happen because you gave up hope, this would be a sign for you this day that hope is still alive, that Christ Jesus is still on the throne. And although we read it in a book, it still has living purpose for us. It is alive and active like a double-edge sword; that’s what it says in *Hebrews*. The power of the word.

So they’re praising, they’re crying out “Hosanna!” and they’re singing; and I can tell you that I’ve been some places where, man, we were so excited after something happened—guys jumpin’ up, huggin’, high fivin’, celebrating....And then one of the Pharisees came on by. “Uh, Jesus, you need to tell your folks that they need to calm down. They need to settle down.” Why would one want to do that? He wouldn’t say it in that way, he’d say something differently. Why would one want them to quit celebrating? Because if they celebrate Jesus as being the King and the Roman authorities are there, guess what? Trouble’s coming in town. It would be with a capital T, but it’s with a capital R for Rome. They’re not riding on donkeys. They are coming with power, and they’re coming with force. They will put us in our place.

I want to encourage you because someone—when you start celebrating that you now have hope, you now can dream, you believe that you can, and God will work in and through you, and there’s purpose for your life—someone will say, “Shhhh. We need to put him in his place; we need to put her in her place. Because all of this stuff can mess with our peace.” Because you know how it is, guys; we know how to survive, even under ugly circumstances. But there’s a difference between truly living, enjoying life, and just going through...just going through, doing what you have to do to make do. But there’s another thing when you live with purpose.

I love watching when a teacher will be creative when teaching the kids and the kids get it. Oh, that’s exciting. I loved in eighth grade (although that’s the time I had to stop playing in the band) when I started finding out after all of the stuff that we had been practicing and working on all of that time, when we started putting all of the different groups together, that the music sounded so good. You know, for me it wasn’t just hearing it on the radio or hearing it on the album, but it was *us!* Celebration! But I got put in my place because my band director said I could either play football or I could play in the band....And so I was no longer in the band, but my joy of music didn’t change. It didn’t change.

I want us to focus more on the celebrations and the praise, and not the punishment or being put in your place. See, if you’re worried about the punishment, if you’re worried about the losses, you’re worried about the pain, you will stay in your place, and you will stay stuck! Oh, but if you dream about your future! And if you do as Paul said the other day, ***“I am forgetting those things in the past and I’m pressing, I am pressing towards the prize of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus,”*** our praise will come forth.

March 25, 2016



NCFA CONNEXION!

WWW.NCFAUSTIN.ORG

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

***“Being Hopeful and Celebrating”
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40***

Pastor James H. Lee

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday**

Jesus is so awesome! He was smooth. Some Pharisees wanted his disciples to be quiet, but instead of being confrontational, he says, ***“If these don’t praise me, the rocks will cry out.”*** Isn’t that something when nature already knows how to praise God? And we who are intelligent people who have experienced the blessings of God don’t know how to praise God or will withhold our praise? Does a tree grow down or does a tree grow up and out? *Praise.* Flowers...roses come up and grow out. *Praise.* Birds, they don’t just fly and stop; they fly out into the beauty, and what’s awesome is when you hear them going chirp, chirp, chirp—making *praise.* When you see an eagle, even on the tempest it rises up with its wings, the majesty and the power of creation, knowing how to take the winds of the storms of life and to ride them. Ride them, not let them overtake them or let them be afraid, but take them and rise up. *That’s praise,* when you can say “I’m going through, but I’m not going down; I’m going to rise up. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. These winds beneath my wings will enable me to rise up, and praise be unto you, God, for making it possible.”

Don’t let the rocks cry out for you. Sing your praises. Do you have to do it loudly? No, but every now and then it’s good to shout, shout unto the Lord, and just say “THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.” Do you have to dance? No, but every now and then something ought to move in you. Even if it’s a dance before the Lord. David was so excited when the Ark of the Covenant was coming into Jerusalem that he danced before the Lord.

As we close out today, I want you to keep your branches to remember that they are not only signs of praise, presence, and the power of Almighty God, but also of the things that you thought would never happen—the areas where you gave up hope and where you would choose to hope again, and to believe again and celebrate. If we’re waving our branches, and they ask us “Why are you waving your branch?” say “I’m giving thanks to God. I’m saying ‘Hosanna, God save me. Hosanna, God deliver me. Hosanna, I need a breakthrough. Hosanna in the Highest.’” So that you move from that place to walk in your purpose, and let your praise be an expression of what God has done for you and how grateful you are. Amen?

*Let’s pray: And so our Lord and God, I thank you for everyone who is in this room today. I thank you for your word. In **Isaiah 54** you said it will go forth and it will not return to your void. And it would accomplish that which you have ordained it to do. And Lord, where my presentation might need to be tweaked, may you tweak it so it is exactly what your babies need so that we can be who you called us to be and do what it is that you’ve called us to do to bring glory and honor to your name and to be a blessing to others. I want to praise you in advance for the victory, for the deliverance, for the moving of places and spaces and stages that will take place in my brothers and my sisters, and, Lord, even in me. Thank you for the privilege and for the joy. Hear our prayers, hear our praises, and know that we’re grateful for you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

J

Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!



We Care Kits

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

We are currently accepting the following donations

Food/Drink Items:

Granola Bars, Trail mix, or peanut butter and crackers

Vienna sausage – 5 ounce size cans

Water bottles – 8 ounce size

Hygiene/Personal Items:

Travel Size Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Travel size hand sanitizer or hotel size bar soap

Men’s size small crew ankle length white or black socks

Quart size freezer bags

Please note: this is a smaller kit with fewer items.

All donated items should be placed in the donations box located on the back table by the AV equipment. If you have any questions, please email me: calyflower2020@yahoo.com or call me at (512) 228-4712.