

# Easter Season Worship

at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church  
339 West Lexington Avenue, Danville, 236-3565

*Palm Sunday*  
*April 1, 10:45 a.m.*

Features a Processional of Children waving palms, and music by the Handbell Choir and Adult Choir. Music includes: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (arr. Page) and "Within the Shadow of the Cross" (Besig).

*Maundy Thursday Service*  
*April 5, 7:00 p.m.*

Communion Service with music by Irene Humelsine; a time for reflecting on Christ's Last Supper with his disciples. 7:00 p.m.

*Easter Sunday*  
*April 8, 10:45 a.m.*

Features the Adult Choir, Brass and Percussion Instruments, and an Easter message from Dr. Tommy Valentine. Music includes: "Easter Song, Fantasia" (arr. Clydesdale), "Honored, Glorified, Exalted" (Rouge/Kirkland), "The Old Rugged Cross" (arr. Hamby), "In Christ Alone" (Getty/Townsend), "Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel) 10:45 a.m.



# The Banners

of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church



## Holy Week 2007

A Gift from the Members of  
Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, KY

### ***Banner: Laying on of Hands (Front Cover)***

Laying hands on a person in the church is a symbolic act whereby a person is set apart for a task. For example, the church community will lay hands on deacons at their ordination service. Laying on of hands is a way of affirming a Christian for a specific ministry and signifies God's blessing and guidance and the support of the community.

## **The Story Behind the Banners**

Have you ever wondered what your special gift was? I certainly have. For many years I wondered how I could serve God. I am a very shy person and I lost many opportunities because of my shyness.

Then several years ago, Bruce Richardson came to me and asked me if I would be willing to take on a rather large project, making the banners that we use each year at Lent. I pondered the project and asked God to guide me.

From the palm branches placed upon the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem to the upper room where He washed His disciples' feet and served them the Last Supper to His scourging before Pilate and finally the long winding road to Calvary carrying His cross to the horrible spiked nails being driven into His hands and feet, I followed My Savior with needle and thread. Finally, Christ died there for me and for all humanity. The Gift of His Life had been given.

Now I understood my gift. It was a simple talent learned at my mother's knee but even the gift of sewing can be used to serve God. Since making the banners, I have always been willing to use my talent when asked.

But the most amazing Gift of all is the Gift of Eternal Life that Jesus gave us there on Calvary. He never hesitated to use His Gift. The Gift He came to earth to give.

As you look at the Banners of Lent, may you accept His Gift so freely given for you and may the stories they portray lead you to find your place in God's Kingdom too.

Jean Steinhauer

# Palm Sunday, April 1

## *The Triumphal Entry*

by Eloise Roberts

Scripture Reading: John 12:12-19 Matt 21:4-11



The palm branches symbolize Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his life. Jesus was greeted as king with shouts of "Hosanna." The crowds laid branches and their cloaks on the road before him as a sign of honor. Jesus, however, rode on the back of a humble donkey.

With this passage, we launch into the last week of Jesus' life before His crucifixion. On what we call Palm Sunday, Jesus, riding a donkey colt, entered Jerusalem. To us, a donkey is considered a lowly beast, but it was considered a noble animal in the East. When a king came riding on a horse, he was bent on war, but when a king came riding on a donkey, he was coming in peace. Jesus was not the warrior figure of whom men dreamed. He was the Prince of Peace. He didn't come to conquer Rome, but sin and death.

Jesus might have slipped into Jerusalem secretly, but He rode head-on into what he knew was a hostile city. In the vast crowd were enthusiastic believers and also authorities who hated Jesus and swore to kill Him. Thousands in the crowd responded to His arrival with waving of palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna to the Son of David." The word Hosanna, means "save now." It was an oppressed peoples' cry to One who would become their Saviour King.

Jesus came during the Passover Feast celebration.

Jerusalem was crammed full with Jews from all over the world. They could all hear and see at the first and same time, "here is the Messiah, God's anointed One", the one who had been prophesied in Zechariah 9:9.

Christ's coming called the triumphal entry also showed the love of Christ for every person all over the world. It was a last appeal for people to open their hearts to Him.

This scripture concludes with these words, "When Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was moved and asked, "Who is this"? (Matthew 21:10). I wonder if Jesus entered Danville, Kentucky would our whole city be stirred? Even more, would we know Him as the Messiah, our Savior and our Lord?

# Monday, April 2

## *Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet*

by Shawna Stomberger

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17



At Jesus' last supper with his disciples, he took up a towel and washed his disciples' feet. The job of foot washing was normally that of the household servant. In acting as a servant, Jesus said that he was offering an example for his disciples to follow. Being a disciple means being a servant of others.

My six-year -old Jack recently announced he was glad he'd be a dad when he grew up. Why? So he wouldn't have to change diapers.

Few of us relish lowly jobs. We value tasks that earn us recognition, money, or pleasure. Washing feet achieves none of that, yet Jesus chose it as our example of love. He washed the disciples' feet to "show them the full extent of his love" (v. 1). We are commanded to love our neighbor, and clearly we are to love by serving.

Picture the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the God of Glory kneeling on a dirty floor, washing filth from feet. Obviously no service is beneath; we have no excuses. We must dismiss our selfish ways. We must meet the needs of people, *whatever* they might be. We must demonstrate our love. The opportunity to clothe, feed, clean, visit, comfort, and help are surely plentiful in our church and community. Let's humble ourselves and start washing feet today!

By the way, Jack, your dad changed your diaper numerous times. He performed this lowly task simply because he loves you.

# Tuesday, April 3

## *Jesus is Mocked*

by Jill Robertson

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:16-20



The crown of thorns was mentioned by three evangelists and included among the symbols of the Passion in later medieval times represented the suffering of our Lord. They placed the crown on Jesus' head to mock him as king.

To satisfy the crowd, Pilate gave Jesus to the soldiers to crucify. I couldn't help but think how people then as we do today concern ourselves with popular opinion. So much easier to do what will be approved by others than doing what is right. The soldiers wanted to mess with Jesus, have some fun with him. They dressed him up like a king, crushed a crown of thorns into his head and began to ridicule him.

I often say I dislike being misunderstood, I like for my intentions and actions to be clear to others. As I reflect on Jesus through these verses I see that more than anything Jesus was misunderstood. Consider the mockers, those soldiers spitting on Jesus, laughing at his name and title, poking fun at him. Nothing more painful than words that jab our hearts coming from people we love. Who were those scorners?

*Men he had created.*

*Men he had come to save.*

*Men he would forgive.*

They mocked his name and bowed to him in mockery. Daily we hear God's name misused. God help us to stand against that! Revelation 19:12 tells us when Jesus returns to this earth he will have a name written on Him that no one knows but himself. How exciting, a name for our savior that has never been profaned! A name he has kept to himself that has never been misused by human tongues, never spoken in vain or mocked. Hallelujah! Romans 14:11 reminds us that every knee will bow and every tongue will praise him! Dear Christian friend, let's live with our knees bent and our tongue praising his name!

Who was the man being mocked? Our Creator. The one who died for us WHILE we were still sinners. *Let us not misunderstand that!*

# Wednesday, April 4

## *Christ's Suffering*

by Evelyn Crooke

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:21-37



The nails used in crucifying Christ will be found in every series of Passion Symbols. They are not mentioned in the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion, but their use is confirmed by the statement of Thomas after the resurrection: "Except I shall see the print of the nails and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25).

At a Maundy Thursday service a few years ago, our pastor gave each of us a nail as we left the service. He explained that the nail was to remind us of the suffering our Lord would endure the next day-Friday. We left the service in silence.

I still have the nail and it continues to remind me of the sacrifice Jesus made for me. And not for me only, but for the whole world that we might have eternal life.

Can you imagine the excruciating pain that Jesus suffered as those nails were driven into his hands! His body sagged as he hung there on the cross and the flesh of his hands was torn away by the weight of his body. He cried out in agony but refused to take the wine mixed with myrrh which would have deadened the pain. And he did this for me! And for you!

In 1924, B.B. McKinney wrote the hymn entitled, "the Nail-Scarred Hand". The refrain of that hymn is:

*Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand,  
Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand,  
He will keep to the end, he's your dearest friend,  
Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand.*

After the resurrection of Jesus, Thomas, one of the Twelve, refused to believe that Jesus was alive. He said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger where the nails were...I will not believe it. (John 20:25, NIV).

We cannot literally see the nail-scarred hands of Jesus but, thanks be to God, by faith we believe it!

# Maundy Thursday, April 5

## *Jesus' Last Supper*

by JoAnn Rice

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:7-23



Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, knowing it would be his last supper with them. He shared a cup and broke bread, saying “Do this in remembrance of me.” Our celebration of Communion or the Lord’s Supper is a remembrance of that night and Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed, Jesus joined his disciples in the upper room. He took the bread and said, “Take, and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Then he took the cup of wine and said, “This is my blood, poured out for many.”

The disciples couldn’t know at the time that Jesus was telling them that He was about to become the one, true Passover lamb. Jesus spoke of His body that would be *given* and His blood which would be *poured out*. His life was to be sacrificed, so that we all might live with Him forever. His blood was to be poured out so that our sins would be forever forgiven.

During this Lenten Season, let us reflect on the various descriptions of this religious celebration of Christ’s body and blood: *The Lord’s Supper*—Have you neglected nourishing your spiritual relationship with God? *The Lord’s Table*—Is He a welcome guest in your heart and in your home? *Communion*—Do you communicate with God regularly in praise and prayer? *The last Supper*—This was the last supper Christ shared with His disciples until He returns to claim His Church. Are you prepared for His return? *The Eucharist*—“Eucharist” comes from the Greek word which means “thanksgiving”. Are you truly thankful for his sacrifice and the richness of His love?

For Christians, the Lord’s Supper should be a simple, sincere, and solemn remembrance of His sacrifice. As we prepare our hearts to receive the sacrament, let us put all other thoughts aside. Let us focus on the grace that He has given us. Let us rejoice that the Lord Jesus allows us to come to the table just as we are and that He offers us forgiveness and eternal life.

# Good Friday, April 6

## *Jesus Christ Crucified*

by Regina Gibson

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:7-23



The cross is the symbol of Christ's crucifixion, a cruel Roman form of execution, meant to prolong suffering and shame in its victims. The letters, "INRI" are the Latin letters from the inscription placed above his head, "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews." Out of love for all of humanity, Jesus suffered and died on a cross so that all might live.

By definition, *Cross* has a meaning in the dictionary of: to turn against, bear, betray, to crucify.

We can relate these meanings to our everyday lives here on earth. At times in our lives we will have despair, a cause of hopelessness which will distort our faith in God. We will not understand the ways in which God is at work, even in our darkest moments.

We have crosses to bear. We at times can be betrayed. Often we feel forsaken. God is always with each of us and will sustain us through our struggles. We as God's children have a deep range of human emotions. Some of us have doubt, some struggle with their faith, some do not want to be transformed in God's enduring promise to have joy, comfort and hope.

In Matthew 27:32-61 it tells us of the crucifixion, the sadness of the followers of Jesus, the emotions of the events that took place. We as his followers need to remember that God will deliver us. We have challenges, trials and tragedies, but my belief is God is testing us and we need to have faith, rise from sadness and hopelessness and not have the feeling of abandonment. God has not abandoned us. God loves each of us. We should feel as if God has given us a "second chance" to be reborn in our faith, to set positive examples, to lead in God's presence.

If God did not believe in us, He would not have offered His only son to deliver us. Let each of us have a positive journey with God in our faith and with each other throughout our existence. Let each of us transform our lives and beliefs that Jesus is risen.

# Holy Saturday, April 7

## *Jesus is Betrayed*

by Keith Stillwell

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25,  
45-50, 27:3-10



“And [Judas] said unto them, ‘What will you give me if I will deliver him unto you?’ And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver” (Matthew 26:15). The symbol of betrayal is the thirty pieces of silver shown falling from a purse.

Some years ago, I was asked to lead a church ministry group for the summer. It appeared to be a great situation and an opportunity for ministry experience. Michael, the previous leader of the group was still a member of the church. He was a good leader and was respected by the group, so he was a great asset. I asked him to be a part of the leadership team. More than any other person, he was the one I spend the most time with, sharing ideas, seeking advice, and learning about the group. I confided in him often.

The ministry of this group got off to a great start that summer. The group was growing spiritually and numerically and a good fellowship was forming. However, before long some tensions and conflicts arose with the group. As always, I consulted Michael and we discussed the best ways to deal with the problems. Most of the time I followed Michael’s counsel. In spite, of our efforts the problems got progressively worse.

When the summer ended, leaders of the committee who enlisted me, apologized for the problems I had experienced. They told me that Michael had not wanted to give up leadership of the group and was not in favor of me coming. They said that he had been working against me. He had been advising me to take the very actions that he knew would increase rather than decrease the tension. Then he would question among group members the very actions and decisions he had recommended. I was embarrassed and hurt. I felt I had been betrayed by a trusted friend.

My sense of betrayal was minor compared to what Jesus experienced. Jesus was betrayed to a horrible death. I certainly would not want to compare Michael to Judas, but my experience that summer gave me hint of what it must have felt like for Jesus to be betrayed by one of his inner circle of leaders.

# Easter Sunday, April 8

## *Jesus' Resurrection*

by Melodee Quinn

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12



The Candle represents the light that was taken out of the world on Good Friday and brought back into the world on that first Resurrection morning. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12)

The resurrection of Christ is such a powerful reminder of how very blessed we are each day.

Only Christianity has a God who became a man, literally died for us and was raised again. On this fact the church was built and hope becomes real and alive. We know that death has been conquered. We too, will be raised from the dead to forever live with Christ. The resurrection authenticates our witness to the world through the church.

The resurrection helps us to find meaning even in the midst of tragedy. Because Christ died for us, we can have the comfort of knowing if we believe in him, we too will get to live with him forever in heaven. All because of the great sacrifice he made for our sins. If it weren't for this supernatural event the world would be meaningless and have no hope. But his death for our sins was validated and we can be forgiven. *We are so blessed!* Because of his death and resurrection, we can own the hope and assurance Christ promises us. We will have life beyond the grave and our lives on Earth are a mere preparation for our heavenly one. This one marvelous event has changed the lives and future of all humankind. We should remember to be thankful each day that we have a God who loves us so much!

# Easter Monday, April 9

## *Baptism*

by Dave Garrett

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1-11



The shell, the most common container of water in Italian paintings, is a symbol of baptism. In Baptism a new believer is immersed in water as a testimony to the new life in Christ they have received. Baptism is a reminder of Christ's resurrection. The believer has symbolically buried their old lifestyle and has been raised to a new life in Christ.

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Pennington Gap, Virginia was my first church and the place my parents and grandparents grew up and served. The gray block church building had a painted silver streaked tin roof and was constructed into the side of a grassy hill. On summer Sunday nights kids would run up and roll down the hill between Training Union and preaching. Us kids would enter church itchy and red hot from running and rolling. The foggy glass windows of the church would be raised and held open by Baptist Hymnals hoping to move some of the hot air around the large panel wall room. Most of the women in the congregation attempted to cool down by fanning themselves with fans provided by the local funeral home. On one side of the fan was an advertisement and on the other an image of Jesus coming out of the water after being baptized.

It was the summer of 1969 and Calvary Baptist was having a revival. After the preaching we stood and sung what seemed like 99 verses of a hymn and on the 98<sup>th</sup> stanza I went forward. The preacher took me by the hand and led me to kneel down at the altar and said "Boy, pray and ask Jesus into your heart." He began to pray out loud. Folks who had already gone forward to make decisions were also praying out loud. Others were testifying about God's love in their lives. Then after a long while it got quiet and the preacher looked at me and asked: "Boy did you get saved?" "Did you ask Jesus into your heart?" My response was, YES! I was 8 years old and as much as I knew and understood about myself and God I confessed with my mouth and believed in my heart—Christ.

On the next Sunday morning, I was baptized—my first act of faithfulness. The action of being immersed in water is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and our new life in Him (Romans 6:4). Today take time to remember your baptism. Today embrace again our new life.