

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 9, 2016

## The Downward Path

*Matthew 10:39 "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it."*

"Lent is a solemn season as we travel with Jesus down the path toward the cross of crucifixion and death. The Lenten season reminds us of our common mission to walk the downward path with Jesus toward death. It is the season that invites us to evaluate our own lives and to examine the ways in which we need to "die" with Jesus. It invites us to lose our life in order to find it anew, resurrected with Jesus on Easter morning. The path to resurrection is the downward path, the path of laying down our lives and the path of self-denial. None of us want to walk this path because this pathway takes us in the opposite direction from the path of self-preservation. Yet, Jesus said that if we want to follow Him, if we really want the kind of life He will offer to us, the kind of life He modeled for us in His own life, then we must "deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him." (Mark 8:34) Following Jesus will lead us all to the cross, and will lead us all to the place of death. That is the downward journey of Lent. It is the season that invites us to come, to enter in, and to follow Jesus on his journey towards the cross. For it is in death we find life, and it is the cross that leads us to resurrection.

-- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/ Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions

THURSDAY

MARCH 10, 2016

## Medicinal Venom

*Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

"Virginia, who is unafraid of snakes, is petrified of spiders. She sees spiders as ugly personifications of evil. The truth is, tarantulas and black widow and brown recluses are evil looking and they can cause great harm to you. But I read the other day that researchers have identified chemicals in the venom of the Peruvian Green Velvet Tarantula that they believe will lead to more effective pain killers with less addictive side effects. Isn't it amazing that things in nature designed to hurt can actually be used to take pain away. The Bible tells the remarkable story of Joseph, a young man sold into slavery by his own brothers, but who ends up rising to a position of great power and influence. I hope you will take the time just to read the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. Many years after the betrayal of his brothers, Joseph spoke to them and said, "What you did to me, you meant it for evil, but God used it for good." The hurts and betrayals of other people can be like a venom to your soul, but when you turn them over in trust to God, He can use even their evil to bring you good, like turning spider poison into medicine.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

FRIDAY

MARCH 11, 2016

## Misery Is A Choice

*Philippians 4:11 "...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."*

One of the secrets of learning how to find contentment in this life is to avoid self-pity. Have you ever had a pity party, a bad case of the woe-is-me? I think we understand the feeling of the little girl who fell and skinned her knee. She ran to her mom and dad to show the full extent of the injury and to get some TLC. They appropriately showed concern, put a band-aid on it, and sent her back to play. Sometime later they found her in her room crying. They asked if her knee still hurt, and she said, "No, but when I hurt it, you and momma didn't feel sorry enough so I am up here feeling sorry for myself." Have you ever done that? Life is difficult. You get skinned up and sometimes feel like you always get the short end of the stick and life is unfair, and that you are being singled out for misery. If we can't get anyone else to feel sorry for us enough, we will feel sorry for ourselves. Self-pity, though, will drag you down to the depths of despair. You can't afford to stay in self-pity for very long. God has given us a lot of good gifts, and one of His greatest gifts is the gift of choice. You don't get to choose your circumstances, but you do get to choose what your attitude and response is going to be in your circumstances. You can choose to feel sorry for yourself and whine your life away, or you can choose joy. My favorite quote is, "Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional." The apostle Paul was in prison, but out of the prison he wrote, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstance." He didn't choose self-pity, he chose Christ, and He discovered in choosing Christ he was choosing contentment. I encourage you to choose Christ and not self-pity.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

SATURDAY

MARCH 12, 2016

## MORE THAN SLIDING THROUGH FAITH

*John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."*

A skyscraper in Los Angeles is adding an attraction that is not for those with a fear of heights: a 36 foot glass slide that goes from the 70th floor down to the 69th floor around the outside of the building, where you can see straight down nearly a thousand feet to the pavement. They plan to charge \$25 for this ride in the sky. I can tell you for sure, they will never get my \$25. For many people, faith is little more than a skyslide--a fun ride that promises to give you a ticket to heaven when you die. But true faith in Christ is something much deeper. To trust in Jesus is to be transformed from the inside out by the love of God. It is to know God fully and completely in such a way that you become like Him in His love for all people. That's much more than a stairway or a slide to heaven. God wants you to have His joy, His peace, and His purpose within you while you are on this earth. In other words, God not only wants you to go to heaven, He wants to get heaven inside of you while you live on this earth. He wants you to live abundantly.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

# TRADITIONAL SERVICE

SANCTUARY - MARCH 6, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS



6000 ATLANTA HWY. MONTGOMERY AL 36117  
FRAZERUMC.ORG • 334-272-8622

Flowers are given in honor of Neil and Ashley Epler's 34th Wedding Anniversary..

Prelude: *"The Lord of the Dance"* (arr. Raney) ..... Kelley Garrett, piano; Robert Scott, flute  
 Call to Worship: *"Lift High the Cross"* (8 am) ..... Choir  
*"No Greater Love"* (9:30 am & 11 am) ..... Youth Worship Arts  
 Apostles Creed ..... Congregation  
 Hymn #363: *"And Can It Be?"* ..... Congregation  
 Special Music: *"There is a Green Hill Far Away"* ..... Choir; Ryan Dean, soloist  
 Prayer ..... Rusty Taylor  
*"The Story of My Life"* ..... Ballet Magnificat! Soloist  
 Announcements & Call for Offering ..... Rusty Taylor  
 Offertory: *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*. Misty Trussell, soloist  
 Doxology ..... Congregation  
 Sermon ..... Dr. Neil Epler  
 Communion  
 Music for Communion ..... Kelley Garrett, piano; Robert Scott, flute  
 Hymn #365: *"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"* ..... Congregation  
 Benediction ..... Dr. Neil Epler  
 Postlude: *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"* (Pachelbel) ..... Kelley Garrett

## From Anger to Grace

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

<sup>66</sup> What do you think?” “He is worthy of death,” they answered.  
<sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him <sup>68</sup> and said, “Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?”” (NIV)

## The Painting and the Story

## Their Anger: Envy, Control and Fear

**Matthew 27:17-18** <sup>17</sup> As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup> (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.)" (NLT)

## God's Grace

**Mark 15:37-38** “<sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” (NIV)

— Dr. Neil Epler

Watch today's sermon on WFRZ-TV or online at [frazer.church/media](http://frazer.church/media).  
You may also order a CD of today's service at  
the Connection Point desk.

# Always Greater

*Revelation 1:17 "When I saw him (Christ), I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, 'Don't be afraid! I am the First and Last.'"*

In Revelation, the Apostle John sees the risen Christ and immediately falls to the ground. Jesus is unspeakably glorious. He is beyond description... He is beyond words. Jesus is bigger than we can ever imagine. He is more than a friend, pal, or good teacher. He is all these things... but more. Like John, I always want to be awed and amazed by Christ. I never want to treat my relationship with Him as unimportant. I never want to be indifferent or casual about worshipping Him. I want to be overwhelmed by His presence because He is the Alpha and Omega. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It is amazing that such a majestic Savior would offer us love and friendship. No one is greater than Christ. No love is higher than His love. Yet, He offers Himself and He offers His love to any who will receive Him. His grace is truly amazing... and His grace even includes me!

*"The secret of the mystery is: God is always greater. No matter how great we think Him to be, His love is always greater."*  
—Brennan Manning

- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions

MARCH 8, 2016

# The Best Is Yet To Come

*Philippians 3:13-14 “Forgetting what lies behind, I’m straining toward what is ahead. I press on with the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

One of the most important things that each of us can do for our lives is to stop living our lives out of the rear view mirror. The truth is there are a lot of people who think that the best years of their lives were yesterday when they were younger, thinner, healthier, the kids were home, or where they worked in a job that had meaning or purpose. Some think the best of life was yesterday, and I bet some of you who are reading this today are carrying a ton of baggage from yesterday- hurts, guilt, regrets, and anger that are defining your life today. If you drive your car by looking backwards through the rear view mirror, you will create a mess and you will wreck. If you live your life looking over your shoulder at the good old days, you will miss the good new days that the Lord has for you. In Isaiah 43:19, God says, "I am about to do a new thing. Can you see it?" Well you won't be able to see it if you are looking backwards. Remember, God still has so much to give you, to teach you, to bless you with. We are people with Easter. If you really believe in Easter then you will know the best is always yet to be. Every exit is an entrance for those who belong to Christ. Your future will be more glorious than your past. If you are looking over your shoulder at guilt, regrets, and shame from sins done yesterday, then turn your face to the Cross. Jesus can forgive you and set you free for a new life today. He has already died for your sins so you don't have to keep dying over and over. Stop living your life out of the rear view mirror and go forward. Remember, the best is yet to be. God has a beautiful future that is going to be more glorious than your past.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor