

## A Psalm for the Journey

*"Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD"*

(Psalm 130:1)

If one pauses to read the small heading that introduces Psalms 120 to 134, one finds something distinctive. Under the title "Songs of Ascents," this group of psalms was traditionally sung by pilgrims making their way up to the hill of Jerusalem. The journey involved a physical ascent, but to the rhythm of these psalms it also became a spiritual pilgrimage. Each of the psalms in this collection addresses different themes and genres -laments, hymns, wisdom sayings, praises to the king- as though gathering together the diverse voices of the pilgrims. Each of these psalms can also symbolize the ups and downs of life, our moods, and our moments of introspection, misfortune, or glory. In this season of Lent, as we undertake a path of reflection and self-examination on the way to Jesus' resurrection, it is fitting to remember this journey, which for us is none other than the path of the Christian life—a path of ascent in grace toward the heavenly Jerusalem.

Psalm 130 in particular grips us from its very first verse, for it presents an "I" crying out from the "depths." The metaphor is bound up with a sense of sinking, helplessness, and perhaps even guilt. And yet, even in this state of despair, the psalmist clings to two deep convictions: the universality of human guilt ("If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?") and a God who forgives ("But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you"). Desperate situations often help us discover our deepest convictions. For the psalmist, these point to a God who is able to forgive and redeem.

That is why the psalmist's response is to wait. This is not without meaning, because sometimes those who are in the depths cannot get out of them by themselves. So the psalmist waits "more than watchmen wait for the morning." Just as the night does not last forever, neither guilt nor anguish has the final word, because God forgives and redeems.

Finally, the psalmist brings his prayer to a close, but this time he is no longer speaking only about himself, but about the whole people. In this way he extends his conviction to the entire community. This makes sense: whoever has tasted the mercy of God no longer thinks only of himself. He wants the whole community to know that there is abundant redemption.

Our whole life is a pilgrimage. We keep ascending, amid struggles, weariness, and falls, toward the Jerusalem of God. In this final week of Lent, let us remember that God's forgiveness and deliverance are convictions that remain with us and do not dissolve even when we cry out from the depths. There too God hears, forgives, and redeems.

Blessings,

Alejandro Rivas, Duke intern

## NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Looking Ahead to Sunday Worship

Scripture for Sunday: John 8:2-11

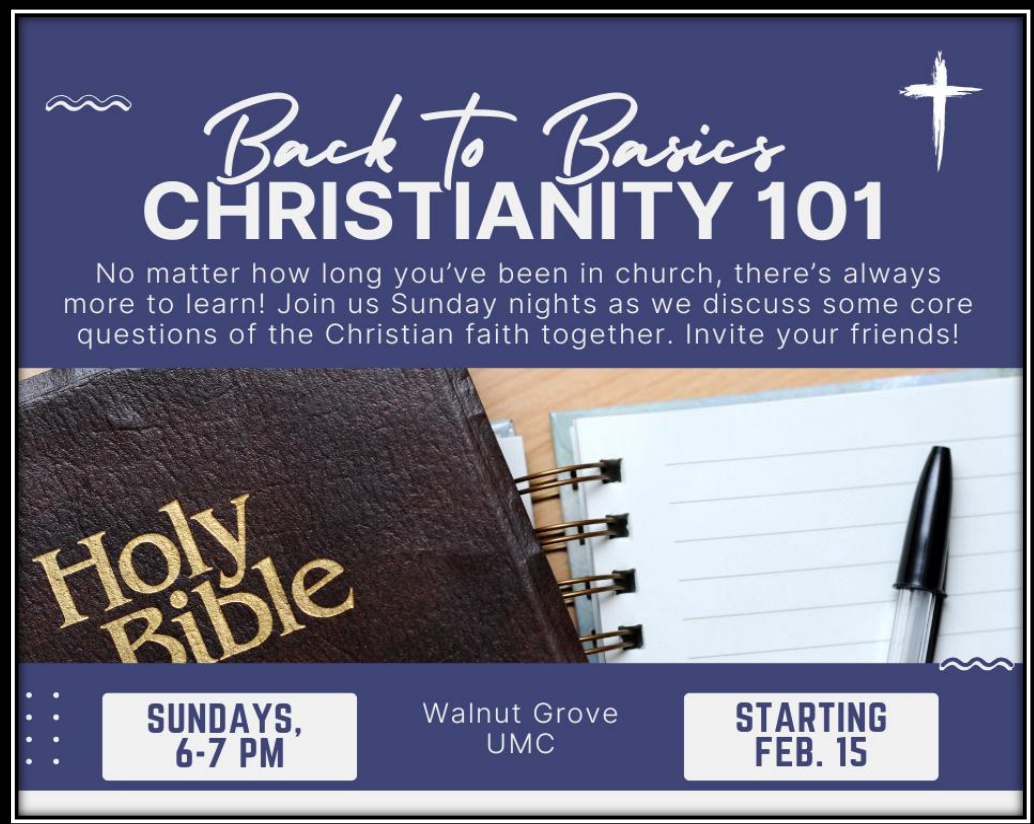
As we look ahead to Sunday, I encourage you to read the scripture ahead of time as part of your devotional time and preparation for Sunday. One passage of scripture can easily take us in many directions. Use the sermon title to help guide your reflections. Spend time in Lectio Divina with the scripture as part of your daily devotions. There are lots of videos on YouTube on how to participate in Lectio Divina. Here is a meditative video that is instructive to be a resource to you –

### Meditative How To - Lectio Divina

### Sunday Night Meal RSVP

Please sign up if you plan to attend and eat a meal during our Sunday night fellowship! This helps our cooks prepare the right amount of food. [SundayNightMeals.RSVP](#)

### Sunday Night Adults (Back to Basics - Christianity 101)



*Back to Basics*  
**CHRISTIANITY 101**

No matter how long you've been in church, there's always more to learn! Join us Sunday nights as we discuss some core questions of the Christian faith together. Invite your friends!

**SUNDAYS,  
6-7 PM**

Walnut Grove  
UMC

**STARTING  
FEB. 15**

## Music Ministry Update

### Hallelujah Kids

The children will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am worship service. In preparation, we will meet Sunday afternoon at 5:00pm to learn a couple of songs. Youth are also invited to participate to provide some instrumental back-up.

### Worship Choir

The adults and youth will be presenting the mini-musical, "Easter...Marvelous Love" on Easter Sunday, April 5th at the 10:30am worship service. This is a short program of musical reflections on the Resurrection. In addition to the Wednesday night practice time of 7:30pm, we will also meet for the next 2 Sunday afternoons at 6:00pm. For more information, contact Leigh McFalls at 919-818-3317 or [leighmcfalls@gmail.com](mailto:leighmcfalls@gmail.com)

### Women's Gathering, March 23rd



## **OCIM Update**

Jimmy and Brenda Berry dropped off 100 pounds of food this week.

Current needs are pinto beans, pork-n-beans, green peas and corn

## **Upcoming Easter Events**

### **Palm Sunday - March 29th**

During the 10:30am worship service, we will celebrate Palm Sunday while we sing and wave our palm leaves. The Hallelujah Kids will add to the morning excitement as they process into the sanctuary waving palms and offer a special song. Come, receive your blessing and be a part of the throng!

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Bring your friends and family and join us at 11:45am, on March 29th following our worship service for an Easter celebration and egg hunt!

We will be collecting stuffed eggs (stuffed with candy, small toys or prizes) in the fellowship hall in marked tubs. There are also unfilled plastic eggs you may take to fill up. Please have them back at church by Sunday morning, March 29.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please reach out to Ashley Parker 919.475.5211

### **Good Friday Service**

On Good Friday (April 3rd) we will share a Mediterranean potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15pm. We will worship together at 7:00pm.

### **Easter Sunday**

Sunday morning (April 5th) at 6:45am, we will worship outside with our sunrise service followed by our Easter breakfast together. There will be no Sunday School classes. At 10:30am we will be blessed by the joy of Easter Hallelujahs with our wonderful Easter Cantata led by our gifted director, Leigh McFalls, and our choir.

### **Easter Monday**

The Monday after Easter (April 6th), the church office will be closed.

## **Tithes and Offerings**

We now have five ways to give to our ministries. If you would like your offering to be allocated towards a specific ministry, please indicate it in the memo of your check or you will be prompted on the website.

1. Give during our weekly Worship Services.
2. Mail in a check to 7215 Walnut Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541.
3. Use our church [website](#). Click **GIVE** in the upper right corner.
4. Use our "My Church" mobile app. Click GIVE in the lower right corner.
5. Use our Vanco QR Code, which you can find on the back of the Sunday bulletins or right here in the weekly *In A Nutshell*.

## Vanco QR Code

As we continually adapt to the gift of technology, Walnut Grove now has a Vanco QR code provided on the back of the bulletin and in the Nutshell for online giving. Simply hold your phone or tablet's camera over the code for the link to Vanco. You may also access the link on our website for convenient giving. Alternatively, cash or check contributions continue to be accepted through our tithes and offerings. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



## JOYS & CONCERNS

### Prayer List

- Herbert and JoAnn Cates, particularly JoAnn at this time, but both have health issues. They are members of our church family.
- Lynwood Lovitte, who is a member of our church family.
- Jean Mangum with health issues. She is a member of our church family.
- Jay Mangum with serious health issues. He is Jean Mangum's son.
- Jeanne Crabtree health issues resulting from a fall. She is a member of our church family.
- Katherine (Kitty) Robinson Hawkins from Hurdle Mills who is having health issues, she has been released from the hospital. She is the wife of Lathan Hawkins and friend of Judy Parker.
- Family of Johnny Purcell from Durham who recently passed away. Johnny is the husband of Karen Hawkins Purcell and cousin of Barry Parker.
- Jessy Privette from Wendell has been diagnosed with cancer. Jesse is the girlfriend of Jeffrey James, who is the son of Anita James and brother of Michael James.
- Carolyn White to whom we gave a prayer quilt who is in need of prayer because of complications due to extended chemotherapy treatments.
- John Facklam from Charlotte, who is in hospice. Prayers for Tish Nowack, her mother, and sister as they await Mr. Facklam's transition. He is the father of Tish Nowack, one of our Walnut Grove Crafters
- Rick Johnson with health issues. He is friends with Judy Butler and many other church members.
- Locklynn Gribble, preemie in NICU. Locklynn's grandmother is a friend of Judy Butler.
- Paul Beck, with health issues. He is a member of Walnut Grove UMC.
- Rev. Meg Hoffman, battling cancer. She's the director of Seeds of Faith at Camp Chestnut Ridge.
- David Leonard having complications from surgery. He is the dad of a friend of Faith Parker.
- Timmy Parker with serious health issues. He is Barry Parker's brother
- Worth Miller with serious health issues. He is a friend and neighbor of Jimmy and Brenda Berry.
- Neil Donnelly with health issues.
- Helen Miller with serious health issues. She is the aunt of Pat Beck's brother-in-law.
- Leo Brooks Populorum (7 Months old), from Pittsboro, has very serious health issues. Leo is the grandson of John and Judy Guibert who are friends of Beverly Huey.
- Ben Lloyd, Cheryl Humphrey's father, with serious health issues
- Gilbert Lee in Prince George, VA, who recently had surgery for cancer. He is Richard Lee's father
- Jerry Forrester, bilateral lung cancer
- Liz Matthews, friend of Katie Whitaker

- Debbie Langdale diagnosed with stage 5 kidney disease, waiting for transplant. Friend of John and Brooke Sherron
- Kelly Schoch, with brain cancer. She is co-worker of Erica Nading
- Kathy Kimrey with health concerns. She is the sister-in-law of Lorraine Hines and Pam Kimrey.

**Prayer is powerful and we love praying for one another!! If you have a request on the prayer list, we would be grateful for any updates needed. This helps us know how to continue praying and when requests may be removed or celebrated. Please let us know how we can best pray for you and your loved ones.**

### Quilts

Leanne Foster from Cary, NC whose cancer has returned and will have surgery the first week in April. Leanne is a friend of Cari Humphrey.

(The prayer quilts will be at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer before or after the service.)

### Birthdays

Friday 3/20 – Kenny Ray, Susan Wagoner

Saturday 3/21 – Carley Swiggett

Sunday 3/22 – Kathie Brown, James Clayton, Marjorie Spruill

Monday 3/23 – Melinda Marlette, Charles Treis

Wednesday 3/25 – Jimmy Berry

Friday 3/27 – Jack Holleman, Candace Young, Jacob Powell Machtolff

If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Kim at the church office at 919-732-5722 or by email at [office@walnutgroveumc.org](mailto:office@walnutgroveumc.org) so we can update our records.

## STAYING CONNECTED

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

### Serving in Worship

#### **March 22nd**

Acolytes: Michael Roberts/Anna Robinson

Greeters: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Ushers: Krystal Robinson/Toni Shaw

Scripture: Toni Shaw

Nursery: Judy Butler/Faith Parker

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

Trustee Open/Close: Michael James

PM Nursery: Ashley Parker/Cathy Boling

## **March 29th**

Acolytes: Max Kemnitz/Ellen Johnson

Greeters: Krystal Robinson/Mary Emma Roberts

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Kara Roberts

Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Grace Dunlap

Financial Rep: Lou Rutledge

Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth

**NOTE:** If you're unable to serve in your role listed above, please find someone to serve in your place and notify the church secretary of the change. This will allow us to have an updated listing to publish each week.

## **Upcoming Happenings**

Sunday, March 22	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Worship Choir (Easter) Adults (Back to Basics - Christianity 101)
Monday, March 23	6:30-8:00pm Women's Gathering
Wed., March 25	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, March 26	7:00pm Building Committee meeting
Fri-Sat., March 27-28	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, March 29	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Palm Sunday Service 11:45am Easter Egg Hunt 6:00pm - 7:00pm Worship Choir (Easter)
Tuesday, March 31	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, April 1	7:00pm Worship Choir
Friday, April 3	6:15pm Mediterranean Potluck Dinner 7:00pm Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 4	9:30am Worship Choir Final Rehearsal

Sunday, April 5	6:45am Sunrise Service Fellowship Breakfast to follow No Sunday School 10:30am Easter Service
Sunday, April 12	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 3:00-7:00pm Youth Service Day at Camp Chestnut Ridge
Monday, April 13	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting
Tuesday, April 14	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wednesday, April 15	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Sunday, April 19	8:30am Potluck Breakfast for interns' last day 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Blessing of the Animals 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids
Wed., April 22	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., April 24-25	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, April 26	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids
Tuesday, April 28	7:00pm Methodist Men
Wed., April 29	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

See You Sunday!!