

REFLECTIONS

This was written for the *Center for Congregational Ethics* and is based on *Psalm 146* from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, for March 22, 2023.

As God was walking the couple out the Garden gate, God promised a lifetime of thorns and thistles, pain and sweat. Or as we politely call them today, frustrations. In my theology, the promise of frustration is another form of God's justice. Sin hurts.

I had seen it done in countless movies and TV shows all my life, but I had never done it. Looking through the shop window, I suddenly realized I wanted to have a barber give me a shave – in the old barber chair, all lathered up, with the old-fashioned straight razor. I had not shaved that morning. The whole process took about 30 minutes. It was a very good shave. When we were finishing up, I asked the barber what he might have learned from shaving my beard. He said my skin was sensitive and he graciously gave me some after-shave oils to try. Then he pointed to the places that were hardest for him to shave and said that this is where I needed to be very careful. I knew those things: the sensitive places will always be sensitive, and the hardest places will always be the most difficult. For me the promise of frustration includes knowing I am tempted with the same temptations, frustrated by the same frustrations, and will face the same conflicts again and again.

The Psalmist sings the Hallelujahs as he reflects upon the steadfastness of God compared to the religiously political around him. Our frustrations are not solved by princes or politicians. Justice is not found in a bigger sword or a better budget. But in a people who can sing *Hallelujah*, praise the Lord, to the God of Jacob, our God, whose trustworthiness is unwavering. Some elevate their frustrations to angry outbursts and manipulative bullying. Others grow hard and cold, vowing vengeance or retribution. Most will work to move past their frustrations, making the best of things. Unless countered by such trust in God, our frustrations can turn inward and lead to a depressing sense of hopelessness.

This Psalm proclaims: our Creator is always faithful and trustworthy, advocating for the oppressed; providing for the hungry; liberating the captive; illuminating the blind; lifting the heavy burdened; loving righteousness; protecting the outsider; sustaining the vulnerable—but *frustrating the ways of the wicked*. This is the promise: Justice through frustration. Our world is broken. Our traditions, systems and structures are fracturing. Constant wars, political upheavals, and disasters are overwhelming, yet, *hallelujah*, there is—justice. Trust in the Lord will not be frustrated. I still must shave most days.

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The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning

Continental Breakfast 9:20 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Conversation 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening

The People's Pantry 5:00 p.m.
The Clothes Closet Ministry
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Darryl DeBorde, Minister
Bill Ess, Music Minister

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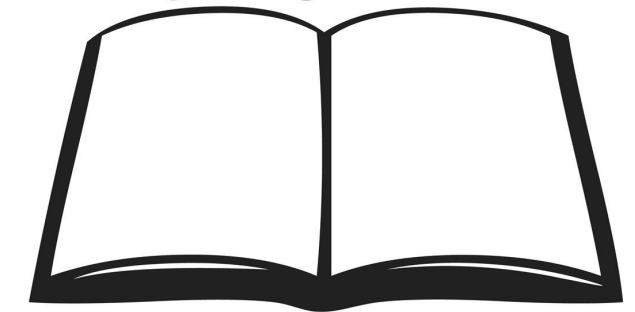
Proclaiming the Good News!
Braden Park Baptist Church
Tulsa, Oklahoma

VOL LIII

March 24, 2023

No. 12

All Scripture
is
BREATHED
OUT
by God.



2 TIMOTHY 3:16, ESV

Our Church Family

LIVING CENTERS

Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 Dorothy Lee

AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett	Paula McPherson
Elizabeth Burke	Georgia Metcalf
Berta Caldwell	Bonnie Nutting
Marion Corbett	Margaret VanHorn
Lydia Ford	Leslie White

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

27 Ray Martin

April 1 Eric Bolton



Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. **Divine Inspiration**
—2 Timothy 3:16-17

This week we explore how God inspired the Scriptures and continues to reveal Himself today. Our series, *Understanding the Bible*, is designed to strengthen our skills in Bible study and grow as a disciple, equipped to help disciple others in the ways of Jesus. Join with us this Sunday, invite a guest, and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Conversation in Willets Hall
Spring Fellowship Dinner
Choir Rehearsal to follow meal

MONDAY, MARCH 27

8:45 a.m. Monday Morning Prayers (*New Start Time*)
Call (712) 832-8330, then access code: 887-7647

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

8:00 p.m. Prayer for the Nations
Kevin Avery's Facebook Zoom link

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

5:00 p.m. People's Pantry Ministry
Clothes Closet Ministry
6:30 p.m. **Bible Study and Prayer**

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

10:00 a.m. **Palm Sunday Lord's Supper Service**

Behind the Scenes

SPRING FELLOWSHIP DINNER THIS SUNDAY

Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor to our Spring After-Church Covered-dish Fellowship Dinner this Sunday, **March 26**. The church will be providing the Glazed Baked Ham and potatoes.

PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 2

The Journey to the Cross
with Palm Crosses and Lord's Supper

EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 9

The Ultimate Victory
Celebrating the Glory of His Resurrection!

TIMOTHY SCHOLARSHIP FOR OBU

The Timothy McKinley Scholarship Fund is available for full-time students attending **Oklahoma Baptist University** in Shawnee for the **2023-2024 school year**. Applications are due by April 16. Contact the church at office@bradenpark.org.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 2,050.00
General Receipts March 19	\$ 580.00
Special Offerings March 19	\$ 0.00

Thank You to all who are providing sustaining tithes and offerings.