

MAY 8, 2022
Crosscreek Baptist Church

Gathering

Prelude—Quinn Hudson

Welcome and Opportunities to Connect

Passing of the Peace

Centering

A Blessing of Peace & Chiming of the Hour

Lord's Prayer—Ron Prevatte

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

(inspired by Psalm 146)

(Light print read by leader; **bold print read by congregation.**)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Eternal, O my soul;

We will praise the Lord. We will sing praises to our God as long as breath fills our lungs.

Place your hope in God, Who created the heavens, the earth, the seas, and all that lives within them;

He stays true and remains faithful forever; He works justice for those who are pressed down by the world, providing food for those who are hungry.

He frees those who are imprisoned; He makes the blind see. He lifts up those whose backs are bent in labor;

He looks after those who journey in a land not their own; He takes care of the orphan and the widow.

He reigns today, tomorrow, and forever.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Hearing

Hymn of Praise: 353—Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (vs. 1-3)

A Reading from the New Testament: Acts 9: 1-19a—Claire Jeffcoat

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

A Moment for Children—Lamar Bradley

A Time of Reflection

"There is no justice in love, no proportion in it, and there need not be, because in any specific instance it is only a glimpse or parable of an embracing, incomprehensible reality. It makes no sense at all because it is the eternal breaking in on the temporal. So how could it subordinate itself to cause or consequence?" ~ Marilynne Robinson

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Generosity

(Offertory by Kaye Slanker)

Worship in Song: “We Will Glorify”—Choir

A Reading from the New Testament: Acts 9:19b-31—Donna Fitch

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Devotion: 594—Before the Throne of God Above (vs. 1-3)

Video: Throwing Rocks

Sermon—Brandon Hudson

“Easter Peeps: Paul”

Responding

Silence and Meditation

“To affirm a person is to see the good in them that they cannot see in themselves and to repeat it in spite of appearances to the contrary. Please, this is not some Pollyanna optimism that is blind to the reality of evil, but rather like a fine radar system that is tuned in to the true, the good, and the beautiful.” ~ Brennan Manning

Hymn of Response: 587—Amazing Grace (vs. 1-3)

Benediction and Blessing

Hymn of Parting: An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind blow at your back,
May the sun shine warmly on your face,
May the rain fall softly on your field;
And until we meet again, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.
Amen.

Postlude

Announcements

Monday

- **Easter Walk**, 10 a.m. at Orr Park, Montevello

Tuesday

- **Deep Dive Bible Study**, 10 a.m.

Wednesday

- **Wednesday Night Kids**, Crosscreek, 6 p.m.
- **Connect** (middle & high school), Crosscreek, 6 p.m.
- **Bible Study**, 6 p.m., Crosswalk Room ("Zoom Room")

Saturday, May 21

- **Crosscreek Picnic!**
2:00 p.m., at the homes of Brandon & Jill Hudson and Gary & Kim Hyden

Mission Opportunities

- **ACC is Back!**
Together for Hope-Arkansas is hosting their All Church Challenge this summer, July 9-15. Crosscreek has helped facilitate this swim camp in Helena-West Helena, Arkansas for several years. It provides a Summer Bible camp with swim lessons, singing, crafts, etc. for kids and additional missions opportunities for volunteers. More information is at www.togetherforhopear.org/copy-of-media. If you feel led to join this effort, please fill out the signup sheet in the foyer. For questions, contact Calvin Gunn (calgunn@bellsouth.net).
- **Ukraine**
CBF has established a relief fund for Ukraine to be overseen by Gennady and Mina Podgaisky, CBF field personnel who have served in Kyiv for 20 years. Funding will also help CBF field personnel aiding refugees in Slovakia, Romania, and Moldova. Any additional funds will be sent to the Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid Development. You can make a donation at www.classy.org/give/394080/#!/donation/checkout.