red mountain church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

GATHERING EVERY SUNDAY AT 5 PM AVON THEATER

red mountain church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 1

GATHERING

REFLECTION

"Jesus Christ is a God whom we approach without pride, and before whom we humble ourselves without despair."

– Blaise Pascal

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

—Zechariah 9:9

HYMN OF ADORATION

ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

All glory, laud and honor, To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest, The King and Blessèd One.

The people of the He-brews With palms before Thee went;
Our prayer and praise and anthems Before Thee we present.
To thee, before thy passion, They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, Our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring!

A READING FROM ISAIAH 50:4-9

[4]The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. [5]The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. [6]I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. [7]The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; [8]he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. [9]It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF ADORATION

TEN THOUSAND TIMES TEN THOUSAND

Words: Henry Alford, 1867
Music: Christopher Miner

Ten thousand times ten thousand in sparkling raiment bright,
The armies of the ransomed saints throng up the steeps of light:
'Tis finished, all is finished, their fight with death and sin:
Fling open wide the golden gates, and let the victors in.

What rush of alleluias fills all the earth and sky!
What ringing of a thousand harps bespeaks the triumph nigh!
O day, for which creation and all its tribes were made;
O joy, for all its former woes a thousand fold repaid!

O then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore;
What knitting severed friendships up where partings are no more!
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle, that brimmed with tears of late; Orphans no longer fatherless, nor widows desolate.

Bring near Thy great salvation, Thou Lamb for sinners slain;
Fill up the roll of Thine elect, then take Thy pow'r and reign;
Appear, Desire of nations, Thine exiles long for home;
Show in the heav'ns Thy promised sign; Thou Prince and Savior, come.

Nursery
Ages: 8 weeks – 3 years

Children's Lessons
"Beulah Land"
Age: 3
Structured nursery time including free play, Bible story, "work" time (artwork), and snack.

"Godly Play"
Ages: 4 – 9
Children are welcome to accompany their parents in church until dismissed for their lesson. Contact Bobby Bardin.

Each community group is asked to recruit 6 volunteers to serve in the nursery. Volunteers should arrive at 4:45 p.m. If your group can't participate on the assigned date, swap with another group at least a week in advance. Contact Bobby Bardin.

CG's in Nursery:

Tonight
Araoz/Welch CG

April 8 Nursery
Stephens/Zinn CG

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted "Hosanna: 'Save us now!'" On Good Friday they shouted "Crucify!" We confess our praise is often empty. We sing "Hosanna," but cry "Crucify." As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF GRACE

Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:

Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures for ever."
Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.
I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

—based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH (GODLY PLAY— PRE-K THRU 3RD)

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH

From the Heidelberg Catechism

Why is Jesus called Christ, that is anointed?

Because he is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and to be our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body, has redeemed us, and makes continual intercession with the Father for us; and also to be our eternal King, who governs us by his word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the enjoyment of that salvation, he has purchased for us.

But why are you called a Christian?

Because I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus am partaker of his anointing; that so I may confess his name, and present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to him: and also that with a free and good conscience I may fight against sin and Satan in this life: and afterwards reign with him eternally, over all creatures.

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

[1]If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, [2]make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3]Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4]Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. [5]Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, [6]who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, [7]but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, [8]he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. [9]Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, [10]so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11]and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [12]Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your ownsalvation with fear and trembling; [13]for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF GRACE

JESUS CAST A LOOK ON ME

Words: John Berridge
Music: Matthew Perryman Jones

Jesus cast a look on me, Give me sweet simplicity,
Make me poor and keep me low, Seeking only thee to know.

All that feeds my busy pride, Cast it ever more aside,
Bid my will to thine submit, Laying humbly at thy feet.

Make me like a little child, Of my strength and wisdom spoiled,
Seeing only in thy light, Walking only in thy might.

Leaning on thy loving breast, Where a weary soul may rest,
Feeling well the peace of God, Flowing from his precious blood.

In this posture let me live, And hosannas daily give,
In this temper let me die, And hosannas ever cry!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, whose gracious love for us embraced that journey to the cross, gather us close to you in these days when again we make that journey in meditation and recollection.

Help us to contemplate again the way taken by our Savior: the false charges against him, the fear and flight of the disciples, the kiss of betrayal, the crown of thorns, the purple robe—and in such contemplation give us courage to face those times in our own lives when he received the same at our hands. Yet help us also remember that you have gone before us, so we look to you for compassion and forgiveness, knowing you are able to save.

When we are weak, make us strong; when hurt and resentful, make us forgiving; when defeated and discouraged, make us hopeful. Keep us from asking for mercy without giving it ourselves, from praying for your kingdom but never working for it.

In this week, deepen our faith by your matchless grace. Deepen the measure of our gratitude and Christian obedience. Move us, who have so much, to share with others who have so little. Uphold us when we summon our courage to speak out for the alien and stranger within our gates and for those long denied dignity and freedom.

Guard and guide us through these days of meditation and remembrance. Guard and guide us through all our days until we come at last to that day when all our days and journeys will be gathered into your eternity, and we shall be with you forever. Glory be to you, O God. Amen

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 12:20-33

12The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

13So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who

comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" 14Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

15"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" 16His disciples did

not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had

been written of him and had been done to him.

The Gospel of our Lord according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MESSAGE

WHAT WAS WRITTEN, WHAT WAS DONE

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WORSHIP THROUGH OFFERING

Mighty God and Father, you overwhelm us with your great mercy. At the time of our greatest need you surprised us with your wondrous love. Jesus offered his life for us to remove our dreadful curse. As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love, may we respond with gratitude as we offer the substance of our souls to continue the ministry of Christ. For his name and glory we pray and present our gifts. Amen.

HYMN OF OFFERING

MY JESUS I LOVE THEE

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;

If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

We are very grateful for the presence of visitors with us today. We welcome you to participate with us in the ministry of giving without any expectation of your monetary gifts.

Please remain seated for offering hymn. (Congregation sings in unison.)

The Passing of the Peace, or Pax Domini, is an ancient part of Christian worship and was established as an element of communion liturgy. Here we observe it as preparation for approaching the Lord's Table. Not to be seen simply as a "grab and gab" time, it is a moment where we joyfully but reverently express our union and reconciliation with each other in Christ.

We encourage families to approach the communion table together. Parents and children who have have been admitted to the Lord's Supper can take the elements. Children not yet admitted to the table can observe and if their parents request it, receive a prayer of blessing from a pastor or an elder who is holding the communion cup.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

(Greet one another with a sign of friendship such as: "The peace of Christ be with you" & "And also with you.")

PREPARING FOR THE TABLE

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

It is good and right to do so!

Truly it is good and right that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven and all the Church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosannah! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosannah in the highest!

We break bread in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS

I know, O Lord, that you have risen. I feel the weakness and frailty of my flesh and my will. But I hope in the power of the gospel, the power of the resurrection. As I feast at your table, eating the bread and drinking the cup, fill me with life again. Sustain me by your grace that I might run in the path of your commands.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH UNBELIEF

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

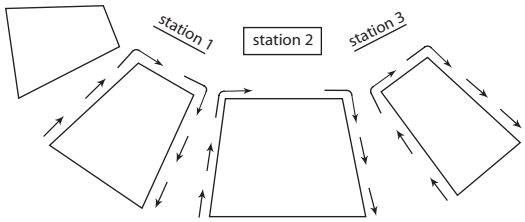
PRAYER FOR THOSE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE

God, I am beginning to see that I am more sinful and lost than I dared to believe, and yet in Jesus, I can be more loved and accepted than I ever dared to dream. I thank you for the work of Christ, his atoning death and his perfect life, which are credited to me when I turn from my sin and believe. Help me to embrace Christ as he is offered to me in the gospel, and in believing, help me live a new life.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIANS STRUGGLING WITH SIN

O Lord, my transgression is ever before me! It clings to me! Help me believe that the Gospel is bigger than my sin. Help me see that Jesus' work not only frees me from the penalty of sin, but also breaks sin's power. As I feast on the bread and wine, convince me that I am no longer struggling to be free from sin, but that in Christ I am now free to struggle with my sin.

FLOW OF COMMUNION LINES



Please note: there will always be an elder distributing the elements at station 2 (middle section, in front of table).

We welcome all followers of Jesus Christ to partake in this sacrament of communion: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is of benefit to you as you reflect on your relationship with Christ and with his people, the church.

We celebrate by coming forward to feast at the Lord's table. Please approach the table, break off a piece of the bread, and drink the wine from the common cup as it is offered to you. Or, if you prefer, you may drink juice from the smaller cups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New to Red Mountain Church? You'll get a chance to meet some folks during our worship services, but real relationships take time. Community groups are the best way to find your stride at RMC and to join in the life of the church. Groups meet in members' homes in neighborhoods across the city, and meeting formats vary. For more information about community groups or church membership, contact Adam Young.

Announcements
To have an announcement added to the bulletin, email Karen Sullivan.

Visit us online at
REDMOUNTAINCHURCH.ORG

Lost & found
located in kitchen.

The Last Word
God always has the last word in our worship. Our tradition at Red Mountain Church is to extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

FOR CONTACT INFORMATION, SEE BACK PAGE.

CHURCH BUSINESS

CG Leaders: please drop off filled plastic eggs from your group for the Easter picnic at church on Sundays or on The Grants' front porch before April 7th.

EVENTS

Tonight at 6:30pm: "Sunday Night Dinner" for singles and newlyweds, hosted this month by Kevin & Tricia Cordell (1618 Cullum St. in Southside, 35205.) Contact Adam Young with questions: 205-447-8647.

Good Friday Service: Fri. April 6th at 5:30-6pm at The Avon.

Easter Service: Sun. April 8th at 5pm at the Avon.

Sat. April 7th at 4:30pm: Easter Picnic. Join us for this church-wide event at Melanie & Jerry Grant's home, 3900 7th Ave. South, 35222. Bring a blanket and picnic dinner with drinks & dessert to share. Egg hunt starts promptly at 4:45pm

Sun. in late-April, 10am, Women's Bible Study: meets every 2 weeks (or so) at homes around the city. New study is based on the book Leaving Egypt: Finding God in the Wilderness Places by Chuck DeGroat. Please contact sara_helms@yahoo.com by April 15 to sign up. It is also the book-of-the-month for Women's Book Group that will meet in late April. Contact bardins@me.com. for time/place details.

COMMUNITY

Welcome Baby Pless! Katie and Paul Pless welcomed their daughter Virginia Elizabeth Pless on March 22nd weighing 8lbs, measuring 21in. To provide a meal for them, please contact melanieandjerrygrant@gmail.com.

Welcome Baby Rodriguez! Matias Owen Rodriguez was born to Amanda & Daniel Rodriguez and big brother Gabriel at 4:20 pm on March 14th weighing 7lb 4oz, measuring 19in. Please contact abbypattonbecker@yahoo.com to provide a meal for the family.

Welcome Baby Booth! Alexander Lee Booth was born to proud parents Stu and Beth and big sister Maddie on March 6th, weighing 6lb. 8ozs. To provide a meal for the family, please contact bardins@me.com.

RED MOUNTAIN CHURCH

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To download sermons, read monthly newsletters, or sign up to receive weekly email announcements, visit REDMOUNTAINCHURCH.ORG.

Hymn lyrics reprinted with permission: CCLI 2321334

CONNECTING WITH RED MOUNTAIN CHURCH

Tear off and place this in the offering basket to provide updated contact information, interest in membership, interest in serving or other info for the pastors.

__ 1st-time visitor __ Interested in more information about RMC __ Prayer request

DATE _____ NAME _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

Other information (address, prayer request, interest in serving):

OUR PLACE

Within a few miles of Red Mountain lives all the diversity of Birmingham, Alabama. Throughout Southside, UAB, Highlands, Downtown, Lakeview, Avondale, Woodlawn, Crestwood and Homewood, the glory and the poverty of the city are mixed together. Red Mountain Church hopes to be deeply rooted in these few square miles. Stand in downtown Birmingham anytime day or night, and you will see "the friendless, the sorrowing, the rich, and the poor." This is our place!

OUR PURPOSE

To embrace and embody the gospel in the church and among all the people of Birmingham with the hope of seeing the joy and peace of Christ's kingdom come to our city.

OUR HOPES FOR BIRMINGHAM

That Christ will create, out of the diverse communities of our city, a new worshipping community, which will experience the grace, joy and freedom of the gospel. "Praise awaits you O God in Zion ... blessed are those you have chosen. We are filled with the good things of your house!" (Psalm 65)

That we will become a welcoming community, open to the skeptic, the seeker, the new convert and the struggling Christian. That we will meet needs (spiritual, physical, social), and share together in the life of Christ. "They broke bread in each other's homes with glad and sincere hearts, enjoying the favor of all the people. And God added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2)

That we will become a serving community that loves our city and which gives to, challenges and changes Birmingham through gospel ministries of word, justice and mercy. "They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." (Isaiah 61)

That we will become a growing community that helps establish other churches around Birmingham, the nation and the world. "All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing." (Colossians 1)

WE BELIEVE...

WE BELIEVE that the gospel — as taught in Scripture and lived out through the church — changes everything.

Red Mountain Church is part of the Presbyterian Church in America.