



Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060
908.756.2468

Visit us online at www.crescentonline.org

Lent

Black History Month

February 28, 2021

Welcome to worship, we are truly pleased you are joining us today. We wanted you to know that we have guidelines in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone.

Below you will see our worship protocols:

- We are blessed to have such a large space to worship in, we ask that you maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from one another. Families may worship together.
- Please wear a face covering at all times while on campus.
- Around the sanctuary you will see disinfecting wipes, gloves, and hand sanitizing stations. All of these are for you to use.
- We ask that you enter one way and exit another. Please follow the traffic flow so we can ensure everyone maintains social distancing while moving about the sanctuary.
- Restrooms are available, though we are trying to limit the usage of those facilities in efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

For more information regarding the reopening of our campus please take a copy of the full congregational packet, which can be found in the narthex.

PRELUDE

Were You There

M. Hogan

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS

Rev. Lynn Santulli

Please rise as you are able.

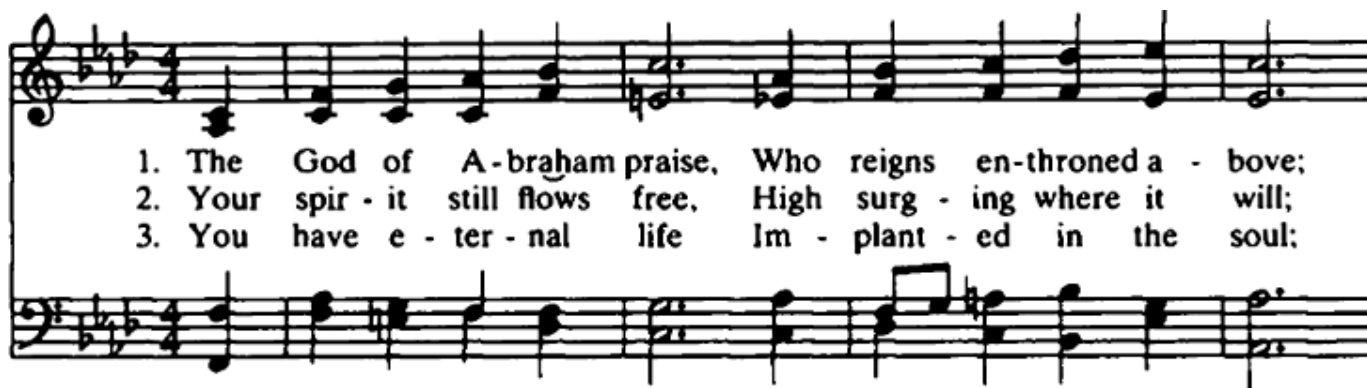
***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Glen Crane

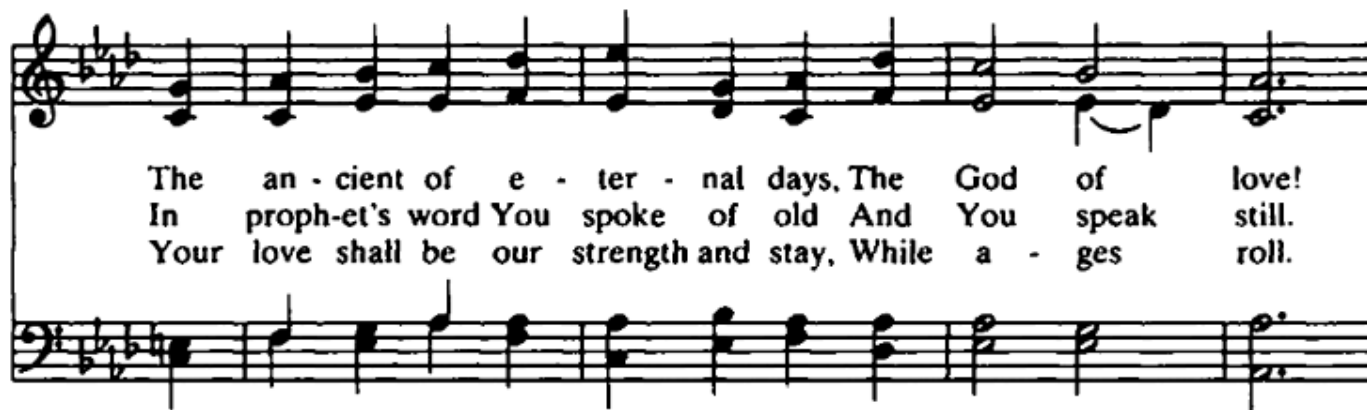
One: Christ died for our trespasses but was raised for our
justification.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Please remain standing.



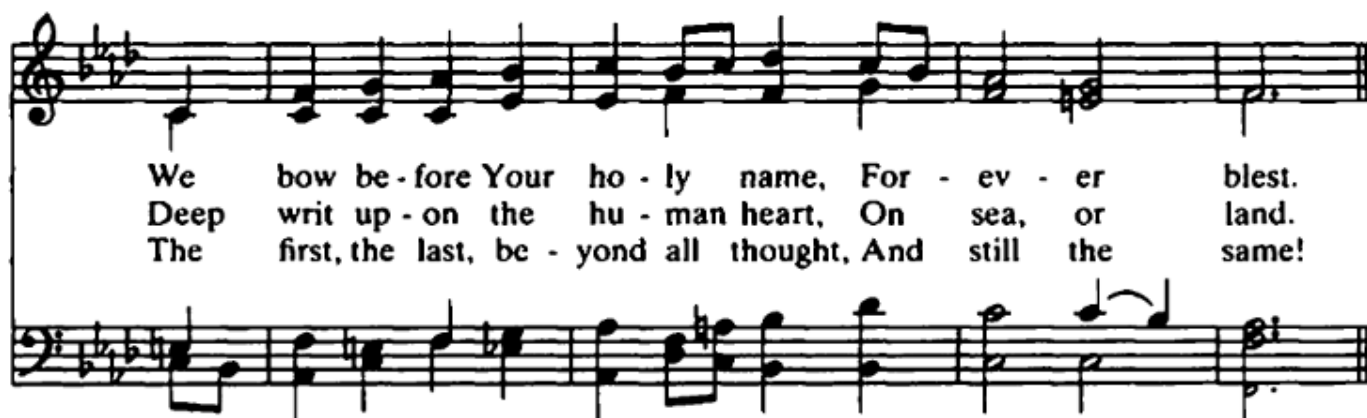
1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek early gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***AN ACT OF PRAISE**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Glen Crane

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**Glen Crane*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

Psalm 22:23-31

Glen Crane

Congregation reads the bold text.

You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

**From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live for ever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

**To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

ANTHEM

Deep River

H. Johnson

GOSPEL READING*Mark 8:31-38**Rev. Ron Thompson*

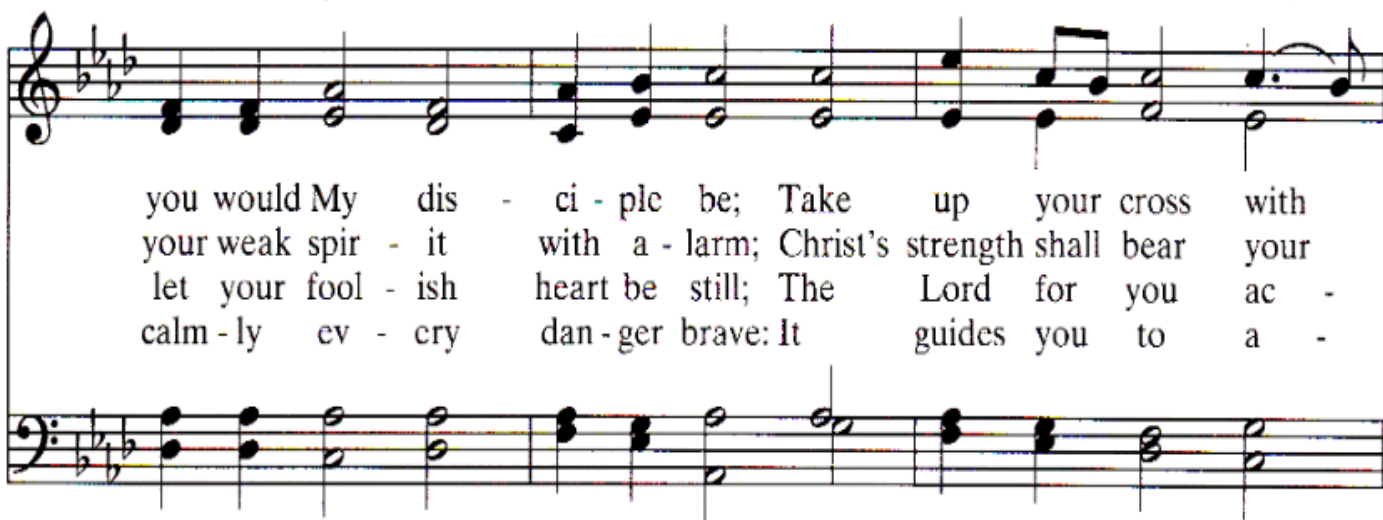
Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

SERMON*“COVID Relief”**Rev. Ron Thompson*



1. Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, If
 2. Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill
 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And
 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, And



you would My dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish heart be still; The Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: It guides you to a -



will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter Me.
 spir - it up And brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death Up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life And leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *How Come Me Here*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Health Issues:

Brian, Anthony, the Beaucasan Family, Leon Edwards, Cynthia, Elaine Duesbury, Frank, Drew Moore, Candyce Norris, Terry, Janie Whiteford, Henry Ward, Jr., Jay and daughter, Kassi and family, Juliet Fydrich, Michael R., Karen West, Lindsey Loftons, Brenda Hopper, Thomas West Jr., the DeGeneste family, Marlotte Troy Williams, Barbara & Craig Wensberg, Janet Miller, Phyllis Perrine, Richard Crane, Barbara Smith, Bill Fyffe, Luis Davila, Dennis Villanueva and Family.

Homebound: (including due to COVID):

Sonnica Cook, Gloria Laube, Winnie Neal, Joan Williams, Jack Shuster, Edwin Opoku, Mary Jo Buck, Chloris Archer

Bereavement:

The Stevens family on the passing of Nick's mother, Glenna.
The Keyes family on the passing of Tim's father, Paul.
The Archer-Kennedy family on the passing of Jacque's uncle, Johnny.

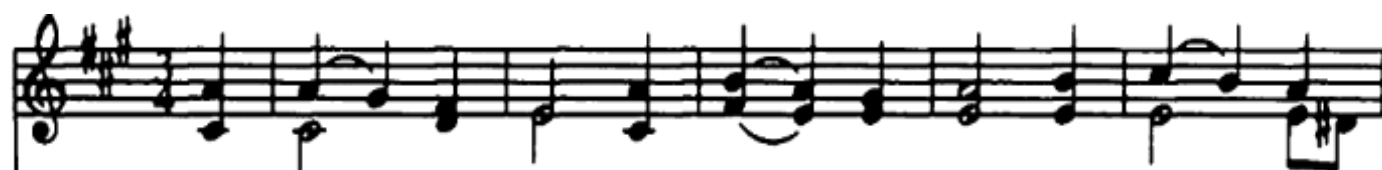
National and World Issues:

For justice for all peoples, and for our nation.


THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Please Stand.



1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, Be - set by
2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, The vic - tims
3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, A car - ing
4. For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the



change but Spir - it led, Must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for
church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, And teach us how to



her - i - tage And keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, And nev - er live un - til they die.
sac - ri - fice, And clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread And feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:

To care for all, without reserve,
And spread Christ's liberating word.

***BENEDICTION**

Reverend Ron Thompson

POSTLUDE

The Silence is Kept from Rubrics

D. Locklair

Worship Leaders

Sunday – February 28, 2021

Reverend Lynn Santulli

Pastor

Reverend Ronald Thompson

Guest Preacher

Darcella Sessomes

Pastoral Associate

Cameron Kuzepski

Director of Music

Glen Crane

Lector

Thylene Torres and Geraldine Harvey

Greeters

Glen Crane and Laura Mann

Counters

Sunday – March 7th, 2021

Reverend Lynn Santulli

Pastor

Darcella Sessomes

Pastoral Associate

Cameron Kuzepski

Director of Music

Patricia Baker

Lector

Emily Upton and Joan Pivnichny

Greeters

Emily Upton and Henry Ward

Counters

Wendy Reid

Communion Set Up

Emily Upton and Joan Pivnichny

Communion Servers



*The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of God and
in Loving Memory Imogen R. Upton.*

God is doing a **NEW** thing!



Children's Messages Online at www.crescentonline.org

March Message: Love Is The More Excellent Way!

Video messages are geared to youth in Pre-K through 5th grade.

Parents will be able to:

- Click on the Children's Message at a convenient time for the family.
- View the message multiple times if desired.
- Receive tips for how to continue to engage their children around the message theme.
- Encourage parents who do not attend our church to access this newly available resource.



ALL MAKES SENSE

*It made no sense,
no sense at all
when Jesus said
the Son of Man
would be rejected,
suffer,
then killed.*

*None of this makes sense,
any sense at all.
Not even when Jesus
spoke of it again
to the gathered crowds.*

*It made no sense,
no sense at all
when Jesus continued
speaking and telling
everyone wishing to follow Him...
to deny themselves and take up their cross.
This makes no sense,
any sense at all
because crosses are for criminals.*

*We are not criminals,
are we?*

*It made no sense,
no sense at all
that if we are to save our life
we are to lose it for the sake of Jesus.
This makes no sense,
any sense at all
about losing our life to the gospel
to therefore save our life.*

*But all made sense,
made sense that day on the
Hill of Calvary
on a cross
between two thieves...
all preceded by the Rejection,
the Suffering,
the Killing...
for this, all this was on our behalf.
Our behalf!*

*All, all makes sense
what Jesus did on our behalf
if we listen and heed
the words of rebuke
Jesus spoke to Peter,
“...you are setting your mind not on
divine things but on
human things.”
Not human things.
Divine things.
Set your your minds on
Divine things!*

*All, all now makes sense
when we look at the*

*Cross of Calvary
not with human minds
but with divine minds
and see,
see the Cross of Calvary
with the mind of the Divine...
and now,
now finally, all makes sense.
All. Makes. Sense.*

Mark 8:31-38

*js. haer
02.24.21*



Spotlight on "We Shall Overcome"

"We Shall Overcome" has a long history with contributions from diverse people from many places. Part of the melody seems to be related to two European songs from the 1700s, "Prayer of the Sicilian Mariners" and "O Sanctissima." Enslaved Africans in the U.S. mixed and matched similar tunes in the songs "I'll Be All Right" and "No More Auction Block For Me."

After 1900, the lyrics of another gospel song, "I'll Overcome Someday," by Methodist minister and composer Rev. Dr. Charles Tinley, were another influencing factor. Around 1945, gospel arrangers Atron Twigg and Kenneth Morris collaborated together joining the essential pieces of the now famous words and melody that comprise "We Shall Overcome."

"We'll Overcome" first appeared as a protest song during a 1945-1946 labor strike against American Tobacco in Charleston, SC. African American women strikers sang as they picketed. The song lent itself to improvised lyrics and that has been a hallmark of "We shall Overcome" down through the years. Lucille Simmons, one of the strikers, brought the song to Highlander Folk School in Tennessee and shared it with other activists there. Zilphia Horton, head of the school's cultural program learned the song and later taught it to the nationally known folk singer, Pete Seeger. On September 2, 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visited the Highlander Folk School and that is where he heard Pete Seeger perform "We Shall Overcome." The melody haunted Dr. King.

"We shall Overcome," used in sit-ins, marches, huge rallies, and church services, became the anthem of the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s. Because so many of the conditions protesters railed against still persist today, coupled with the staying power of the song, "We shall Overcome is still a song that offers courage, hope, and comfort to afflicted and marginalized people to this day.

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome.

We shall overcome.

We shall overcome someday.

Oh, deep in my heart

I do believe.

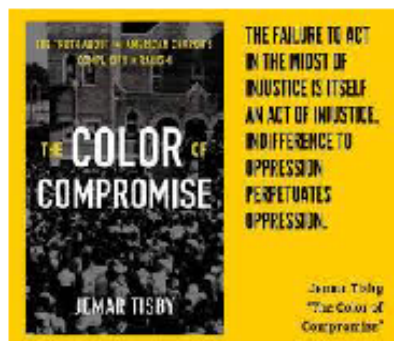
We shall overcome someday.



**Crescent Avenue
Presbyterian Church
Program of Events
for Black History Month**

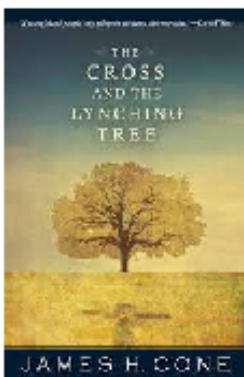
**Video/Book Study
Thursdays at Noon –
beginning February 4**

Watch the video online, read the chapter or just zoom in to drop in on the conversation. **The Color of Compromise** discusses the racism inherent in American churches.



**The Cross and the Lynching Tree
by Dr. James H. Cone**

Wednesday Evenings beginning February 3, Zoom at 7 pm



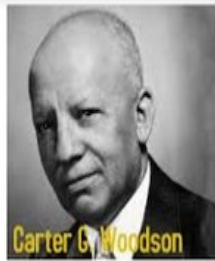
While the lynching tree symbolized white power and black death, the cross symbolizes divine power and black life God overcoming the power of sin and death. For African Americans, the image of Jesus, hung on a tree to die, powerfully grounded their faith that God was with them, even in the suffering of the lynching era.

Dr. James Hal Cone was an American theologian, best known for his advocacy of black theology and black liberation theology.

Sign up by emailing Pastor Lynn at lsantulli67@gmail.com or texting her at 908.803.7230.

Please include your name, contact information and program(s) you would like to register for – books can be ordered online or through your local bookstore





BLACK HISTORY MONTH



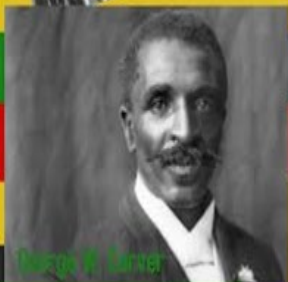
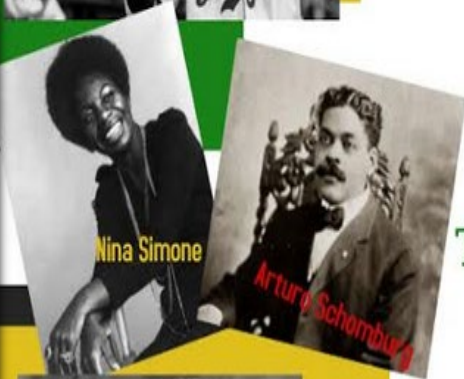
(It's virtual.)

Zoom Link: <https://f.ls/sq58t>

Crescent Avenue
Presbyterian Church

► February 28 • Special Event
12:30 pm Zoom Conference Call

The Education & Dicipleship Committee
Invites You to Hear Presentations at our
3rd Annual Celebration of Black History
and Culture Program.





There are a lot of plans for worship, check these out!

**Sunday, February 28th – Reverend Ron Thompson,
Moderator of Elizabeth Presbytery, Guest Preacher**

We have the wonderful opportunity to invite to our pulpit the Moderator of the Elizabeth Presbytery, Rev. Ron Thompson. Currently serving as pastor of the Townley Presbyterian Church, Rev. Thompson is a gifted preacher and we are truly blessed to have him with us this day.

Palm Sunday – Sunday, March 28th @ 10:30 am

Join the waving of the palms throughout the service as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and our hearts.

Maundy Thursday – April 1st @ 7:30 pm - Sanctuary

Service including stripping of the chancel. A powerful service that begins the deepest reflections of the sacrifice our Savior offered for our salvation. Communion is served.

Good Friday - Tenebrae Service – April 2nd @ 7:30 pm - Sanctuary

A powerful, moving service that brings us face to face with the texts of the story of the Passion. Readings, music, silence, candlelight and darkness all witness to the power of this night.

REVEREND RON THOMPSON – GUEST PREACHER

Reverend Ron Thompson was born, raised and continues to live in Union County, New Jersey. He and his wife, Vyonna, recently celebrated 40 years of marriage. They have two adult sons, Jeremy and Steven, and are blessed with three granddaughters and a grandson. They both like to travel. He is a “late bloomer” marathoner. She is always patiently waiting at the finish line.

Pastor Ron believes that he “can do all things through Christ”, who is the source of his strength (Ephesian 4:13). He has a BS in Organizational Management from Nyack College, New York as well as a Master of Divinity from Cairn University, Pennsylvania. His mother was instrumental in starting his early Christian training at the Greystone Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, NJ.

Pastor Ron built a career as a “tent maker” enabling him to financially support his family, his educational expenses, and contribute to the advancement of the Gospel. He retired from the Bayway Refinery after 38 years. His work allowed him to travel throughout the U.S. Prior to the start of his work career, Pastor Ron served four years in the United States Marine Corps. He is a Vietnam Era veteran who still believes we should serve those who cannot serve themselves.





CRESCENT AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

Lent is a special time to pause and reflect on where we find ourselves on our walk with Christ. It is a time to engage our hearts, minds and souls to open us to hear God's voice of love calling to us to follow, to go in new directions, to hear His Word in new ways, to be reminded of His sacrificed and renewed in His service. Here at CAPC we are offering a wide variety of opportunities for you to make the most out of this time. Together we journey, never alone as our Savior guides our very steps.

Prayer

Devotionals – Personal devotions are an integral part of the Lenten journey. We have three recommended selections available for your use this year: **The Road Back to God** (focused on guiding you to a deeper and richer relationship with God), **Places of the Passion** (follows the Gospel of Matthew with an eye toward the places of the Passion) and **Come to the Light** (daily prayers the help us turn from the darkness and toward the Light in our lives). Other titles will be available in limited quantities as well.

Prayer Wall – a prayer wall will be installed in the narthex for this holy season. You are invited to place your prayers for this season (and any other prayers) on this wall. Materials are provided for your use or you are welcome to write your prayers at home and place them on the prayer wall. Prayers will be incorporated in weekly worship.

Lighted Labyrinth – the Lighted Labyrinth will be back and set up for Holy Week. This no-touch walk guides you through the themes of Lent, the gift of Christ's Passion and the power that transforms our lives. Socially distant. Check on times and, if preferred, sign up for your own personal time to come and walk.

Recommended Reads

Lent of Liberation – Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery, Cheri L. Mills takes you on a 40-day journey to help heal the wounds of systemic racism. Books can be ordered online www.wjkbooks.com or via amazon.com.

***The Cross and the Lynching Tree** by James H. Cone, Wednesday evenings, February 3, 10, 24, March 3, 10. Winner of the 2018 Grawemeyer Award in Religion, this book is considered a landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America.

***The Color of Compromise** by Jemar Tisby, 'The truth about the American Church's complicity in racism.' Questions from this book will be raised during our Thursday 'News from the Pews' Zoom call.

Worship

Sunday Worship during Lent – 10:30 am – Sanctuary – each Sunday we come before God with prayer, passion and presence seeking to bring before God the best we have to offer.

Virtual Meditations – online – each week Pastor Lynn will reflect the theme **“How Can I See the Light When It's So Dark?”** inspired by Linda Douty's book of the same title. This meditation will be available on YouTube and through Facebook. Links can be found on our website as well.

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***Zoom offerings are open to everyone but you need to register to obtain secure portal. Please email Pastor Lynn at lsantulli67@gmail.com to be included.**