

THE FIFTH WEDNESDAY DAY OF LENT

March 18, 2015

12:00 noon



Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
907 S. Croatan Highway
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

✠ *Congregation stand as you are able.*

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.*

THE ORGAN PRELUDE.....Jason Evans

✠ THE CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ THE HYMN NO. 213: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" RATHBUN

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Spoken in Unison*)

Dear merciful God, we confess our sins of commission and omission and pray for your forgiveness. Help us to use the crosses we bear to become more compassionate toward others and to become more committed to your word and will. Give us courage to even risk our life for You if we are called to do so, for it is in You that we live, love and have our being. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 53: 1-9

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 9: 18-27

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.' He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, 'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and

be killed, and on the third day be raised.' Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.'

THE SERMON: "The Crosses Jesus Bore" The Rev. Dr. Richard Batzler

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken in 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

✦ THE HYMN OF SENDING NO. 724: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" ANGEL'S STORY

✦ THE BENEDICTION

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE Jason Evans

*Please join us in the fellowship hall following the worship service
For a lunch prepared by Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church.
The cost of the lunch \$5.00.*

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND LUNCHEON HOSTS

March 25

The Rev. Tom Wilson, Speaker
From All Saints Episcopal Church
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Luncheon

Holy Wednesday, April 1

The Rev. Spottswood Graves, Speaker
From Calvary Presbyterian Church, Swan Quarter
Dare County Hotline, Luncheon

POEMS FOR LENT AND BEYOND

Rev. Dr. Richard Batzler, 2015

Crucifixion - Death to Life

Bloody hands, feet, head,
Bloody speared side,
Entering the world of the dead,
Jesus cruelly crucified,
Tears of anguish and pain,
A cry of abandonment,
But then the ultimate commitment,
To the promise of life again.

Loosing and Finding

Jesus' words that to lose one's life in him,
May seem to many strange and grim,
But when he declares the loss is gain,
Joy for new life will be the faithfuls' refrain.

Blood on the Cross

Blood flowing on the cross is not just loss
Of a precious life, but a symbol of strife,
Within the heart, mind and soul
Of humanity as a whole.

Mystery of the Cross

The crucifixion of Jesus is a mystery,
Embodied in human history,
Yet those who embrace this mystery,
Discover with joy their destiny-
Eternal life in Deity.

Tomb and Womb

The death of Jesus through his crucifixion,
And his burial in a donated tomb,
Find their fulfillment and inspiration,
From his divine conception in Mary's Womb.

Paradox of Power

The lesson in Christ's crucifixion,
Which all persons need to heed,
Is that the power to renounce power,
Is the real power indeed.