

**The Worship of God
Sunday, April 07, 2019**

The Third Sunday of Lent

In Philippians 3:13-14, Paul conjures a race metaphor, making it an ideal caption for posters where runners are depicted with grimaced faces and taunted muscles leaning forward as they run down the track. And it's certainly the allusion I believe Paul had in mind as he wrote the words, "I press on toward the goal." But he was applying the metaphor to salvation and to the Christian life. So it wasn't so much a sprint, as is often portrayed, but a marathon, or perhaps even a long journey, since it is to last our entire life.

Whatever comes to mind as you imagine this passage, what would you think of someone in such a situation hauling suitcases filled with rocks? Not very smart. Which is one of the reasons I believe the Apostle developed the strategy, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead...." It's a beautiful concept, filled with grace. But as we will learn today, it's difficult to apply. Because for some reason, we have a hard time letting go of our rocks.

Prelude *There Is a Fountain* Celebration Orchestra

Faces & Places of First Baptist Church

Welcome Mike Greenfield

Time of Greeting *What a Beautiful Name*

Lighting of the Christ Candle Mike Greenfield

Congregational Call to Worship

Come, People of The Risen King

Morning Prayer Mike Greenfield

Songs of Our Worship *I Stand Amazed in the Presence* CH 348
At The Cross (Love Ran Red)

God's Eternal Word for Us Today *Philippians 3:4-14* Emma Elliott
Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Offertory Prayer Ethan Carter

Offertory *God of Calvary* Sanctuary Choir

Message from God's Word *"Grace for the Journey"* Kelly Pigott

Invitation *Change My Heart, O God* CH 654

Continuing Acts of Worship Mike Greenfield

Recognition of Decisions C. V. Blake

Benediction *Come, People of The Risen King*

Postlude *There Is a Fountain* Celebration Orchestra

Instrumentalist: Beverly Warren, piano