

Living Lent | Day 25

So Long as It's Black

Jesus said to the Jews, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

John 5:19–29 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

In 1909, Henry Ford famously said that customers could have a car painted any color they want, "so long as it's black." His production process focused on efficiency and made no room for choice of paint color.

We've come a long way in the last 112 years, to the point where most middle-class Americans feel that choice is their birthright. We choose car color, clothing color, hair color, potato chip brand, cell phone plan, streaming service, take-out meal, online degree program, kitchen sink faucet style, peanut butter consistency,

denominational affiliation, professional sports team, tattoo artist, dentist, laptop brand, tattoo removal service, bottled water company, dietary plan, political party, and casket design. We even choose how we will observe Lent each year.

John 5: 19-29 is going to rub us the wrong way.

Here Jesus responds to critics who objected to his healing a man on the Sabbath (John 5:1-17). He says that what people see Him doing, just is what the Father is doing. When the Son works, the Father works; when the Son speaks, the Father speaks; when the Son judges, the Father judges. And the way that the Father gives life and redemption and fulfillment of all of his great and precious promises is through the ministry and words of His Son.

In other words, we can get to God any way we want, so long as it's through the Son. This Lent, perhaps one way that we can find humility and come to terms with our limitations and weaknesses is through the absence of choice: to be confronted with a God who has already decided, without our input, how He will rescue and save. It is to see the undeniably specific, embodied, concrete way that Jesus spoke and moved and acted, and to be denied the option of abstracting to general statements about God and faith and the human condition. Jesus the Palestinian Jew, the brown-skinned member of an oppressed people, the teacher who confronted, comforted, and confused in equal measures. And the one who, without consulting us, took the way of humiliation and death to bring in God's kingdom, and calls us to follow.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

Drew Thompson is the Pastor of the Union City Church located in Brunswick, Georgia. Founded in 2019, Union City Mission is part of God's reconciliation movement. The church is deliberately multiracial, both for the purposes of diversity and inclusion, as well as a demonstration that Jesus Christ's teachings supersede any categorizations created by man. Will you become a part of God's reconciliation movement during this Lenten period? Pastor Drew and members of Union City are always seeking ways to serve their neighbors in and around Glynn County, including the children and staff at Morningstar Children's Home.

*It takes a lot of everything to **create home and healing** for the foster children, our neighbors, served at Morningstar Children's Home.*

We invite you to join others in giving \$1 per day during Lent to help support the needs of the children.

[**Donate Now**](#)

Day of Service/Stations of the Cross

Sign Up For Our Daily Devotionals



Discover Morningstar Children & Family Services

[Learn More](#)

a sanctuary where **transformative** teaching and **healing** affirms
our **children** through **real relationships**

Primary Mailing Address
P.O. Box 370
Brunswick, GA 31521

Brunswick Counseling Center
220 Santo Domingo Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

Perry Counseling Center
402 Courtney Hodges Blvd, Ste 201
Perry, GA 31069

Morningstar Residential Campus
1 Youth Estate Drive
Brunswick, GA 31525

morningstarcfs.org | [@morningstarcfs](https://www.facebook.com/morningstarcfs)  



Morning Star CFS | 1 Youth Estate Drive, Brunswick, GA 31525, Brunswick, GA 31525

[Unsubscribe ljohnson@morningstarcfs.org](mailto:ljohnson@morningstarcfs.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by livinglent@morningstarcfs.org in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!