



**Better Together
IN CHRIST**

LENT 2022

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

MARCH 2-APRIL 16

11AM BOTH LOCATIONS

Stonecrest Campus 5460 Hillendale Dr. Stonecrest, GA 30058	Atlanta Campus 2283 Baker Rd. N.W. Atlanta, GA 30318
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Shalom

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2022 LENT DEVOTIONAL

MARCH 2- APRIL 16

WEEK 6

Salem Bible Church

2283 Baker Road | 5460 Hillendale Drive

Atlanta, GA. 30318 | Lithonia, GA. 30058

Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Dear Salem Family and Friends:

The 2022 Lent season is upon us, and we pray that you will be blessed by our program this year. In keeping with our 2022 church theme *Better Together in Christ*, we will focus on the tenet *Unification* in the acronym C.U.R.E.

Other features of our Lenten observance will include:

- Daily prayer, Bible readings and personal worship
- Weekly Devotional Readings and Jubilee Growth Groups
- 42 Weeks of Prayer and Consecration with Jubilee Prayer Partner
- Fasting & Prayer Times (personal and corporate)
- Virtual Sunday School classes
- Maundy Thursday Observance
- Easter Sunday Services
- Special Resurrection Offering (over and above regular tithe and offerings)

Finally, please know that although we are in prayer with you during this Lenten Season as God continues to bless during the season of Jubilee. We pray that you continue to stay safe, in good health and that God will prosper you. Until we see you again, Shalom and God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Joseph L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jasper W. Williams, Pastor Emeritus

WEEK 6 (April 4-9, 2022)

The Praying Hands (Sacrificing for Others)

Scripture Reading:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (ESV)

Devotional Reading

John 3:1-21, Colossian 1:1 – 29 (ESV)

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for his big family, the father, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his shop and any other paying work he could find in the neighborhood. Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the eldest children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. The winner of the toss will attend the academy first and complete his study. Once, the first winner of the toss completes his study, he will help the other brother to attend the academy and support him financially by selling arts or working at the mines if necessary.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer, one of the brothers won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert, the other brother went to work at the mines and for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was

almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than most of his professors. By the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfil his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed.

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately, I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. My brother, for me, it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, watercolors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's

works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."

The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Remember the sacrifice others may have made for your success in life. Always, respect them and care for them as what they could have done for themselves, they did that for your happiness.¹

Scripture Commentary

God's motivation toward people is love. God's love is not limited to a few or to one group of people, but His gift is for the whole world. God's love was expressed in the giving of His most priceless gift—His unique Son. God showed the depth of his love and sacrifice for all of his creation through his Son and desires us to demonstrate that same love and sacrifice toward our neighbor. The sacrifice is great, but the reward is priceless...an eternal, loving relationship with our Father in Heaven!

⁸ [The Praying Hands. https://www.moralstories.org/the-praying-hands/](https://www.moralstories.org/the-praying-hands/),
retrieved 1/15/2022