

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2020



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Andy S. Chambers

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***Hosanna, Hosanna! Blessed is He
who comes in the name of the Lord!***



Palm Sunday is the day we remember and celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is also the beginning of Holy Week. Pictured here is a photo I took last week as I walked around the church. It's the cornerstone of our current sanctuary building constructed in 1950. From a construction standpoint, the cornerstone would have been that first block laid on which everything else would follow. Which direction would the building face? How would the rest of the "stones" follow?

Seventy years ago faithful servants of God rebuilt our church facility on the foundation of Jesus Christ—on HIS love, on HIS kindness, on HIS forgiveness, on HIS mercy, and on HIS grace. Today, we continue to follow in that same faithful direction and on that same Cornerstone of Jesus Christ. Our hope is built on nothing less as the old hymn goes.

We know, as Scripture tells us, Christ would be rejected by the religious leaders of the time. We know he would be arrested and condemned to die a most gruesome death. As our Cornerstone, Christ carried the weight of the world on his shoulders as he "paraded" into town. He carried our sins and brokenness all the way to the cross. There they were hung and there they died.

This week, let us finish this difficult journey of Lent. Let us consider the things we are building our lives on. Can we say, in all honesty, they are built on Christ? If so, let our "Hosanna's" be loud! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

*On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

Thank you, Lord, for being our Cornerstone. Amen.

Prayer Before Worship

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people and the ways of our world in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that self-emptying may be our pathway, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING WORDS

from Zechariah 9

Rejoice, rejoice, you sons of Zion! Shout for joy you daughters of Jerusalem! Look and see, your king is coming to you. He comes triumphant and victorious, yet humble and riding on a donkey. The Lord will now save his people, as a shepherd saves his flock from danger. Like precious stones in a crown, we will shine in God's own land.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORNING HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

see bulletin

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*inspired by Psalm 31:9-16*)

With joy in our hearts, we welcome your servant, O God, only to reject him when he picks up a cross instead of a crown. Like cloaks laid on the ground before Jesus, we pick up our faith, dust it off and put it back in the closet until we need it. We can be as stubborn and rebellious as the city which cheers your name.

Save us, Redeeming God, save us! May we lay our doubts, our fears, our worries, our weariness at your feet, trusting and believing that you will forgive what is sinful, make whole our brokenness, and welcome us as sisters and brothers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(our prayer continues in silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name, not to judge us, but to save us. Friends, let us humble ourselves in gratitude to God, and in service to others, even as Christ did. Hosanna in the highest. Amen!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 23:44-46

SERMON

Rev. Andy Chambers

Seven Words from the Cross: Reunion

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Philippians 2

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

THE 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.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

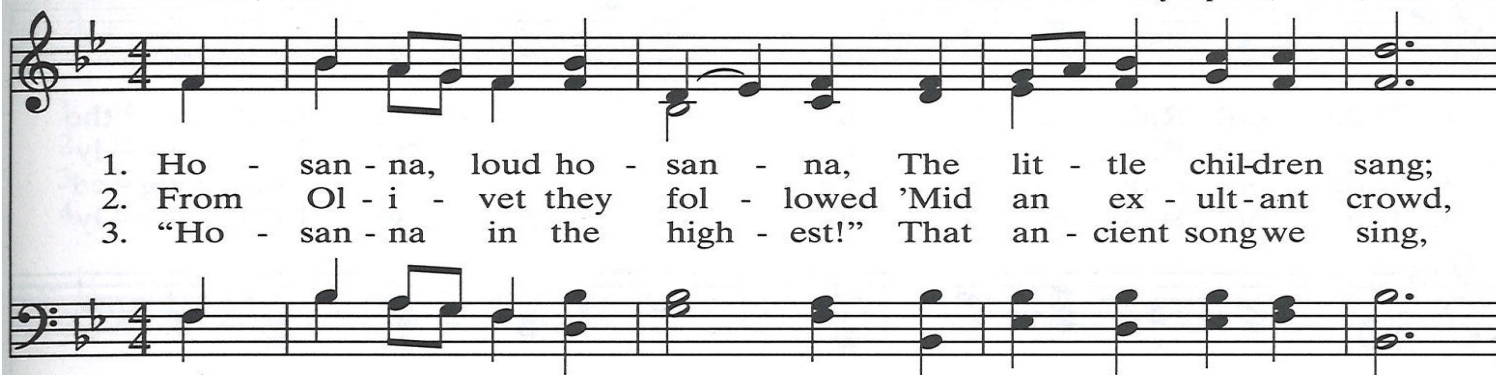
*World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

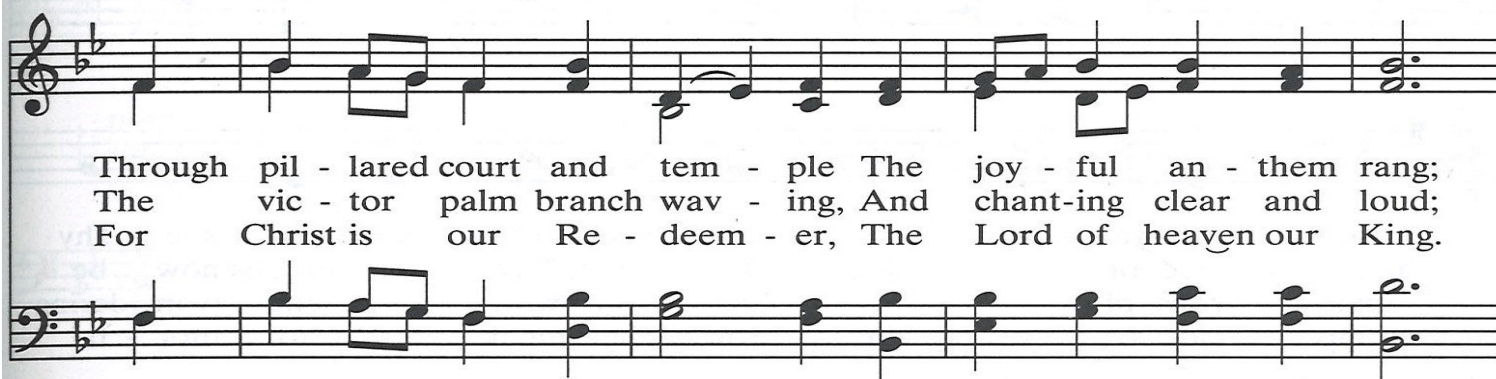
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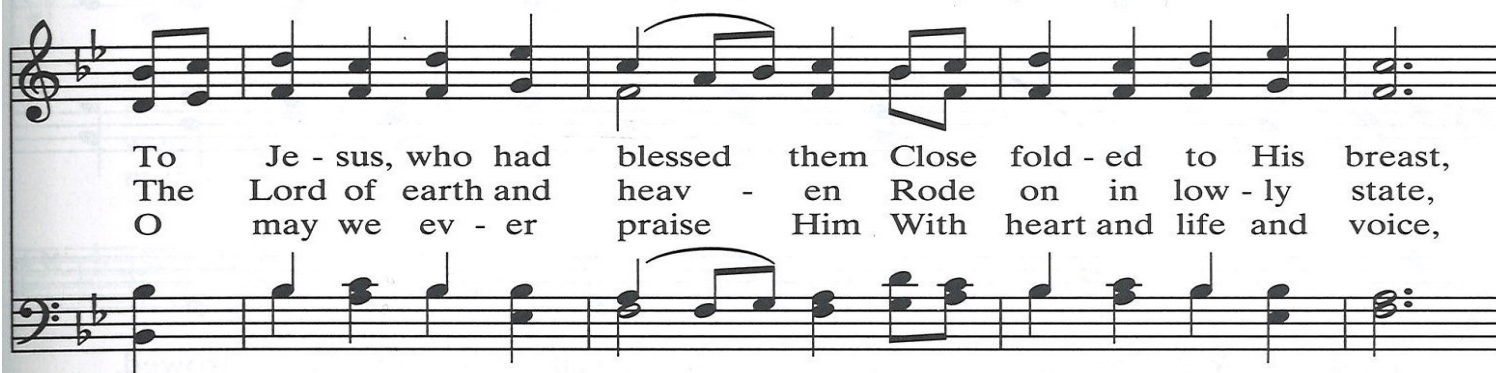
Jennette Threlfall, 1873

*Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868*


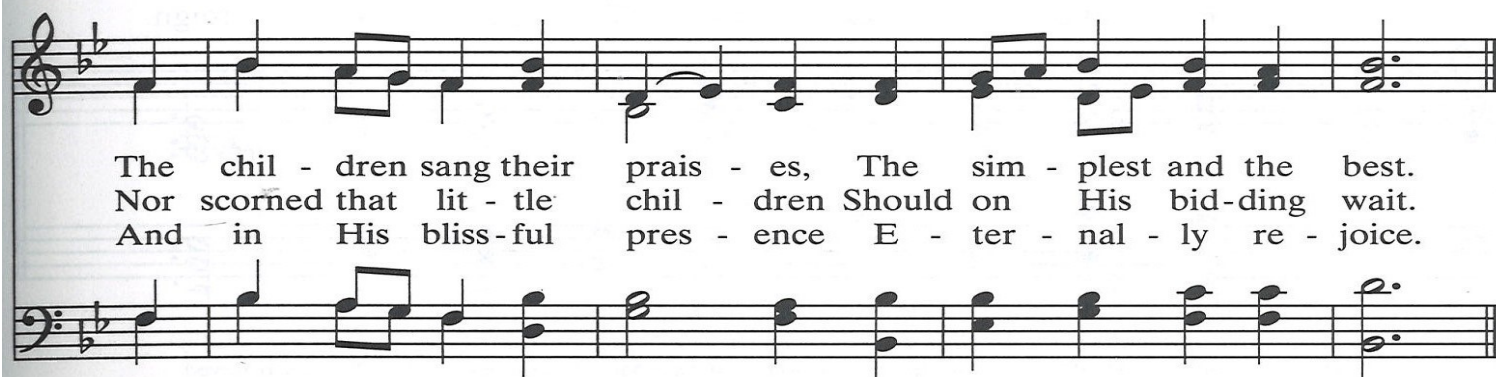
1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'Mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The joy - ful an - them rang;
 The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, And chant - ing clear and loud;
 For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav - en our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them Close fold - ed to His breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice,



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
 And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

Emma-Jewell Bible Study

Emma-Jewell Circle Bible Study will be safely held in participants' individual homes on Tuesday, April 14, at 11:30 AM or whatever other time is best for you. Marilyn Bedsworth has prepared three pages of comments, pictures, prayers and notes of online resources. Those who regularly attend Emma-Jewell will receive the lesson commentary by email or regular mail service. Anyone else who is interested may contact Marilyn at speakdiversity@windstream.net and she will be happy to email you also.

Interested in a BOOK study?

Pastor Andy would like to invite you to join him in looking at the church through the lens of "Difference." How have we allowed difference to divide us? For his doctoral practicum he is looking at how we might embrace difference and therefore create space in our church for difference. Already one group has looked at RACE and how it has divided us a people and as a church. Now, he'd like to invite the whole church to join in this conversation. We will be reading *Disability and the Way of Jesus* by Bethany McKinney Fox to discuss specifically how we might make even more space for folks with various disabilities.

Donations to cover the cost of the book will be appreciated. This study will begin the week after Easter—if we can meet in person, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays (time TBD). If we cannot meet in person, we will introduce how to meet via Zoom remotely.

****If you would like to participate please call the Church Office (706-778-2822) this week so we can order your book.**



April Birthdays

April 9: Betty Gillette

April 10: Klayton Sumner

April 12: John MacLean

April 14: John Wayne Armour & Cat Wiles

April 16: Tripp Allen

April 18: Tucker Sumner

April 27: Grace Hulsey

April 29: Jan Barton & Jennifer Hartsock

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer Person(s) of the week: **Donna James**

In the Oaks (Scenic): **John Howard**
Ruth Breed

In the Military: **Captain Alex McLean** and family; **Cpt. Joe Campbell** and his family, **LCpl Kevin Matthews** (Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii) and his family.



Sylvia Palmer; Jerry and Joyce Barrett; Bill Ford; Michelle Truelove and family; Jan Tolbert (friend of Pastor Andy); **Betty Schaeffer; Hadden Carswell** (friend of Duren Chambers and Maddie Chosewood); **Greg Hopkins; John Foster; Celeste Sumner; Teresa Touralack; Chris Webb & family** (Troy Webb's son); **Ann Nermoe** (Bill Ford's sister); **Melody Little** (Marilyn Bedsworth's daughter); **Garth and Sue Smith; Carolyn and Jeff Denton; David and Martha Lee Sherman; Karen Hooper** (Troy Webb's Stepsister); **Mary Sue Tripp** (Troy Webb's cousin); **Maria Costley; Robin Griffin; Khamphant Touralack** (Souvanh's brother); **Scott and Melissa Painter; Barbara Gates** (Brent Gate's mother); **Jackie Williams** (Sharon Baskin's cousin); **Philip Barber; Bonnie McKim; Brad Donaldson** (Ron & Karen Sprayberry's son-in-law); **Pete Lewis** (Joy Mullen's uncle); **our country, its leaders, and those working in the medical field.**

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'*

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise, O God, awakened by your Word, to live another day. Lead me in your path. Show me the steps to take toward greater faith. Hold me in your care as I move through this Holy Week where the shadows deepen even in the daylight. Hosanna! Save me now, dear God! Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I come to the darkness of night, O God, tired and ready for a sweet respite in your care. Keep me safe from all harm, and bring me to the morning light with renewed strength. In Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.

Notes

Dear Church Family,
Todd and I cannot thank you enough for the prayers, kind words,
and cards that we have received during my mother's short illness
and after her passing. This difficult time has been a little easier
knowing that you are walking this journey with us. We look
forward to being able to say thank you in person once we're all able
to gather in worship again.
God bless you all,
Michelle Truelove

To all my friends:

Many of you know my mom (Sylvia Palmer). She's the most upbeat, supportive intelligent, and wonderful woman I've ever know. Her laughter is infectious, and she never stingy with it. She loves people, and sees/promotes the good in people. Everything looks like a party to Mom! I might be a little prejudiced, but this is how I see her anyway. She seems ageless, and has taught school since the 60's until recently. Then she decided to go back to college and work on a Master's in Theology! In her 80's, and still a school girl! She could still beat most of the college guys in ping pong too!

Some of you may or may not know that she was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago. They did chemo, then surgery, then more chemo. The chemo was working. One morning on her way to school, a 24 year old boy was "distracted" and didn't see he had a red light. He hit Mom's driver door at 70 mph. She had 11 broken ribs, 2 fractured ankles, a severe concussion, and soft tissue injuries from head to toe. She was in the hospital for about a month, but recovered, and went back to driving, and back to school. The worst part though is she couldn't heal from the injuries and still take chemo. So, although the chemo was working before the accident, they had to stop so she could heal. Unfortunately all this time off chemo has allowed the cancer to come back. This time it's in her liver, colon and other places. They've tried more chemo, but last week decided it wasn't working anymore. Best guess now is she has about 2 to 7 months left. She started hospice, though it's hard to look at her at the moment and see why. Mentally she's great. Except for being on some oxygen, she looks and acts great. Looking at her now it's so hard to believe that she may no't make it the rest of the year.

I know, hearing this news, people are going to want to come see her, and she's going to want to see them, but this COVID-19 virus that's going around messes that up. Dr Green said that if she contracted that virus, her life expectancy would probably only be a matter of hours – not months, or even days. Of course, Mom being Mom, she's still upbeat and happy. She says she loves every minute here, and she's looking forward to seeing Jesus and Dad too. I'm still trying to process it all myself (lots of different thoughts and feelings). Although people going and seeing her right now isn't a good idea, Mom does really treasure her friends, family, and students through all these years. I think a much better idea is to write her a note or letter, and let her know what she's meant to you. I hope people will do that. Mom would really treasure such. She'd love to have stuff she could read and re-read. Personally I think relationships and good memories are one of the few things we get to take with us from this world to the next. Therefore, what could be more valuable? If you want to mail her something, just message me here for an address. I'm just not going to put her address out there publically. I'm been in security for over 40 years! I have her well protected, but I still think about that stuff! BTW - Don't bother trying to send her messages here on FB to the account "Sylvia Palmer". That's a old (hacked) account that we can't figure out how to delete. She wouldn't see those. If you know someone that Mom has meant something to, please forward this and/or let them know. I have no idea how to reach them all, or even who they all are.

Thank You

Steve Palmer

Edited to add:

Sylvia Palmer
627 Oak Creek Lane
Alto, Ga 30510



HOLY WEEK

Livestream Service Times

Maundy Thursday 7 pm

Good Friday 7 pm

Easter Sunday 10:30 am



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

APRIL 2,3: SEND OR POST YOUR
#ATHOMEHOSANNA

DURING HOLY WEEK DONNA WILL BE POSTING
MUSICAL SELECTIONS TO LISTEN TO AS YOU
WORK THROUGH THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MEDITATIONS.

WED, APRIL 8: BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

DURING HOLY WEEK SEND IN OR POST YOUR
#ATHOMEHALLELUJAH

EASTER SUNDAY: COME PLACE FLOWERS ON THE
CROSS IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE ON MAIN

From Marilyn Bedsworth:

The 2 articles on Paul and Jennifer Kirbas are part of the ongoing history of our local church. They came to us fresh out of seminary, so this congregation both received encouragement from them and gave encouragement to them. A number of people may be interested in these updates. It would be wonderful if you could send the information as a church-wide e-mailing. Two of our long term members told me they had heard that Paul's wife Jennifer is now also an ordained minister, so I added her information just a few minutes ago. She would make about the 16th ordained minister who has come forth from this congregation since its organization in 1905. That is a lot in 115 years and it speaks well of God's leadership and the congregation's response at Cornelia First Presbyterian!



Rev. Jennifer Kirbas is the Associate Provost for the newly established Graduate Theo-logical Foundation offices in Oklahoma City. Jennifer is an ordained minister with the Presbyterian Church (USA). She attended Columbus State University where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree. She then went on to attend Dubuque Theological Seminary where she received her Master of Divinity. Jennifer is in the process of beginning her Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in spirituality with the Graduate Theological Foundation. Jennifer also serves as Parish Associate for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City in the area of pastoral care. Jennifer is the wife of Paul Kirbas, *pastor at Cornelia First Presbyterian Church 1989-1993.*



Paul Kirbas came to Cornelia straight out of seminary. This church was his first pastoral experience.

Dr. Kirbas has been a Presbyterian Minister for 30 years, holding pastorates in Georgia, Florida, Illinois, and currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, OK. His academic appointments have included being appointed as the Guest Associate Professor of Theology at Wheaton College, and an adjunct professor of Philosophy at North Central College in Naperville, IL. He received his doctorate at the Graduate Theological Foundation in Oklahoma City, OK, where His Ph.D. studies have focused on the intersection of theology and nature, in collaboration with John Kerr, past Warden of the Society of Ordained Scientists in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Kirbas is the founder and president of the Kirbas Institute which offers events, curriculum, and a TV program called “The Exchange, Where Faith and Science Meet” that builds bridges between spirituality and science.

The seeds of the Kirbas Institute were planted at Oxford University in the year 2000, when a Presbyterian Minister named Paul Kirbas was attending classes under Dr. John Kerr, an ordained Anglican Priest who was also a respected scientist. Realizing Paul’s interest and talents in bringing together theology and science, Dr. Kerr invited Paul into a PhD program under his leadership. Paul finished that degree in the year 2007.

After receiving this degree in theology and science, Paul was in conversation with his long standing mentor, Dr. Ben Johnson of Columbia Seminary. Dr. Johnson gave guidance for Paul to develop a vision for a unique ministry that would bring faith and science together as partners in addressing important issues facing our world. Ben guided Paul in establishing this new ministry, and the Kirbas Institute was born in the year 2009.

Ben Johnson not only guided the birth of the Kirbas Institute in the Chicago area, but also opened the door to the first main project that got the institute off the ground. He introduced Paul to the leaders of the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Fetzer Institute invited Paul to create and lead a major conference that would bring faith and science together to explore the sanctity of nature. With Fetzer’s support, Paul brought together leading theologians and scientists from all over the world for [The Conference](#), which was held at the Fetzer Institute in 2010. This conference led to the development of our first curriculum product, [Sacred Place, Sacred Role](#).

In 2015 The Kirbas Institute moved from Chicago to Oklahoma City as Rev. Dr. Kirbas became senior pastor there. Kirbas Institute currently offers a nationally televised weekly TV show called *The Exchange, Where Faith and Science Meet*. Episodes of the show are now available for group studies. The Kirbas Institute is in the process of merging with the [Graduate Theological Foundation](#), a nonprofit graduate studies institution with over 52 faculty members, 3,000 alumni, and 500 current students. Once the merger is complete, the Kirbas Institute will become the GTF Center for Faith and Science, and will be housed in the Oklahoma City Offices of the Graduate Theological Foundation.

Information collected by Marilyn Bedsworth, February 2020