



# THE STATE OF TEXAS

## GOVERNOR



*To all to whom these presents shall come,  
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is presented to*

## First Cedar Valley Baptist Church

*on the occasion of its*

### Building Dedication

In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul declares that "all things work together for good to those who love God," and two millennia later, in Salado, Texas, this timeless truth unfolded before our very eyes. Mere days after Palm Sunday 2022, a devastating tornado swept through your community, leaving in its wake chaos, destruction, and heartbreak. Tragically, your building was reduced to rubble, but one thing was left unscathed and intact: the cross. On the slab where once stood a church, the cross remained—an incredible symbol of God's grace in the midst of life's trials. Although you were pressed on every side by troubles, you did not despair because you knew that you were neither abandoned nor forsaken. In the aftermath of the disaster, the community poured out its love abundantly; the congregation's spirit was stronger than ever; and the Lord provided a way forward.

The hand of Providence has enabled you to celebrate Easter in a new building, and I know that the themes of resurrection and deliverance will carry new meaning for your congregation this year. This journey will be forever etched into your congregation's memory, and it serves as a beautiful reminder that the church is indeed more than a building. Paul's words to the church in Corinth resonate with the church in Salado, and we know that even "if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." I have full faith that this church will continue to be a force for good in Salado and beyond, and I wish you nothing but success as you begin a new chapter of church history.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in wishing you God's blessings for the future.



In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin this the 1st day of April, 2023.

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas