



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

TOWER BELLS

PALM PROCESSION

HOSANNA! BLESSED IS JESUS WHO COMES IN GOD'S NAME

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, oh

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, oh

We are marching in the light of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Open the gates!

Give us courage to walk through!

Lay down the cloaks!

We mark the journey to Love's reign.

Lift up the branches!

Let us boldly proclaim God's peace!

*HYMN 91, V.1-4

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!

Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;

O Savior meek, pursue Thy road

With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride On! Ride on in majesty!

In lowly pomp ride on to die;

O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin

O'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, Thy power, and reign.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain; we are reluctant to answer your invitation; we are slow to embark on the journey toward your reign. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us the help we need to be your people – the courage to join you in the procession; the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you; the freedom to lift our palms to your glory; and the knowledge that by your grace we are forgiven.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news! The procession is ever moving forward. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hymn 89

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has given us so many gifts in Christ and in creation. We offer our gifts in gratitude for the possibilities we enjoy, trusting God to multiply what we bring for goodness’ sake.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gifts and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. This is the Lord’s table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share in the feast.

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, Creator and Ruler of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed in your image, setting us in this world to love and to serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation. When we rebelled against you, refusing to trust and obey you, you did not reject us, but still claimed us as your own. You sent prophets to call us back to your way. Then in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent your only son to be one of us, to redeem us and heal our brokenness.

Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty. Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Your son Jesus fulfilled the prophets' words and entered the city of Jerusalem, where he was lifted high upon the cross, that the whole world might be drawn to him. By his suffering and death he defeated the power of death, becoming the source of eternal life. The tree of defeat became the tree of victory; where life was lost, life has been restored.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be the one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Take and eat! These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, our help and strength, you have satisfied our hunger with this eucharistic food. Strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son we may be led to salvation, for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 88 (V.1-4)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain:

*All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou are the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One.

Refrain

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before Thee we present.

Refrain

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

Refrain

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King!

Refrain

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Peter Becker, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,

‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'