



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON

To be a loving community of faith dedicated to helping people know Jesus Christ and grow, share and serve as his disciples.

**Palm Sunday**

**March 24, 2024 10:00 a.m.**

**1**

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

**INTROIT** PH #183 “Come to Me, O Weary Traveler” (verse 1 and 4)

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Humble and riding on a donkey, **we greet you;**  
Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children, **we cheer you;**  
moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,  
**We salute you: Christ our Lord.**  
You are giving the beast of burden, **a new dignity;**  
you are giving majesty, **a new face;**  
you are giving those who long for redemption, **a new song to sing.**  
With them, with heart and voice, we shout:  
**Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

#### OPENING PRAYER

As the people spread their coats palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives this morning. King of Glory, King of Peace, Servant King, reign in our hearts and lives this day and all days, that we might praise your holy name. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**HYMN** #198 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Our Sovereign Redeemer, we join with the people offering our own shouts of praise and celebration at your coming. Although we often welcome you as did the multitude on Palm Sunday, we have not always understood what this means. We confess that we have also stood with the condemning crowd on Good Friday with our thoughts, words, and actions crying, “Crucify!” And like Peter, we have, at times, denied our relationship with you through our silence. We turn to you**

**for help and forgiveness, gracious Savior, not because we deserve it, but because you are forgiving. Save us from our sinful ways, and restore us to a life of loyalty to you. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Psalm 32:5 says, “Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Because of Christ, we are forgiven.

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Merciful God, as we enter Holy week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Responsive Reading from Psalm 118

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is always good;  
God’s steadfast love endures forever!

**Let the people say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”**

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

**The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day the LORD has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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

**From the house of the LORD we bless you**

The LORD is God and he has made his light shine upon us.

**With palm branches in hand, join in the festal procession up to the altar.**

You are my God, and I will give you thanks you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good and God’s love endures forever.**

**ANTHEM** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin

#### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Matthew 21:1-11, John 12:12-19

**21** When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, **2** 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. **3** If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” **4** This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

**5** “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.”

**6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; **7** they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. **8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and

others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** 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!”

**10** When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” **11** The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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### **Jesus’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

**12** The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—  
the King of Israel!”

**14** Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

**15** “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.  
Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

**16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. **17** So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. **18** It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. **19** The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

**SERMON**

Hosanna

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### **A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

Jesus was a different kind of king than the people expected. .What surprises you about Jesus’ kingship in your life?

**HYMN** #618 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING**

Let us fulfill our vows before the Lord. Let us give as we have promised and how God has directed our hearts.

*(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)*

The crowds offered you their coats to walk on, they waved palm branches, honoring your presence. Today we honor you, Lord, with our faithful tithes and offerings. We lay these gifts before you, humble tokens of our love, a public display of affection for our King of Kings. Amen.

*Will the Ushers Please come forward.*

**OFFERTORY**                    Open the Gates of the Temple    Mrs Joseph F Napp and Fanny Crosby  
Tenor: George Hameline

**DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (don't put words on slides)

Almighty God, we are continually amazed at how you turn the world upside down.

For a Savior of the world, we would have chosen a powerful prince,

But you chose a carpenter's son born under questionable circumstances.

For disciples to help Jesus through his ministry, we would have chosen well connected, wealthy people of the upper class to bankroll the operation,

But you chose fishermen, a tax collector, and other such outcasts.

For a grand entrance into Jerusalem, we would have chosen a white Stallion, but you chose a donkey.

When riding high in the polls on Palm Sunday, we would have chosen to stay there as long as we could, but you chose to clear the temple.

For a place of coronation, we would have chosen a palace with a wonderfully decorated royal throne, but you chose a cross.

For those whom we would want to have included in the kingdom of God, we would have chosen those who look and sound like we do, but you chose the world.

For people to show the love and grace extended to us in Jesus Christ, we would have chosen somebody else, but you chose each of us. Use us today. Amen.

**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.*

**TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN**

**HYMN** #196 All Glory Laud and Honor

**CHARGE**

May Jesus, our King of kings, make His rule known in your life.

May you echo the crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem, who praised and celebrated this King even though they did not yet know the nature and scope of His saving plan.

May the glory of our King give you strength and excite you with reasons to worship even as we pray for His saving power over our world.

May Jesus' humility as He draws near to heal us of our sin give you hope that while we face this present storm and darkness, Jesus, the ultimate healer of our souls, will one day make all things new and right.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up His countenance to you and give you peace.

**BENEDICTION**     The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Wagner

**POSTLUDE**

Peace be with you!...and also with you!