



## 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**  
**April 13th, 2025 10:00 a.m.**

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

#### INTROIT

#### CALL TO WORSHIP —based on John 12:13

King Jesus comes, King Jesus,  
Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah.

**Hail! King Jesus, King of all!**

Recall the words of the Scriptures: “A great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!’”

**In praise we adore you, King Jesus. Enter our hearts today as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you received the worship of those who hailed you as their King: Accept our praise and adoration, our worship and love; and grant that we, who now confess you with our lips, may never fail to give you the service of our lives, for the honor of your holy name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**HYMN PH #196 BH #88** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and then later pronounced “Crucify him,” we are fickle people who often deny Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Remembering the events of Jesus’ last week helps us see ourselves for what we are: sinners in need of a Savior, a Savior—praise God—we have in Christ. In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted “Hosanna: ‘Save us now!’” On Good Friday they shouted “Crucify!” We confess our praise is often empty. We sing “Hosanna,” but cry “Crucify.” As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE****DECLARATION OF PARDON** —based on Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17, NRSV

Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:

Let those who fear the Lord say, “His steadfast love endures for ever.”

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ’s love in lives given to your service. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Isaiah 50:4-9a

**4** The Lord GOD has given me

a trained tongue,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens,

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

**5** The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious;

I did not turn backward.

**6** I gave my back to those who struck me

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.  
**7** The Lord GOD helps me;  
 therefore I have not been disgraced;  
 therefore I have set my face like flint,  
 and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

**8** he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand in court together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

**9** It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
 who will declare me guilty?

## **ANTHEM**

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Luke 19: 28-40; Luke 19: 1-10

#### Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying,

"Blessed is the king  
 who comes in the name of the Lord!  
 Peace in heaven,  
 and glory in the highest heaven!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” 9 Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

**SERMON** The Jesus’ Triumphal Procession to Zacchaeus

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

What about us? Do we get it? Is Jesus the suffering Messiah for us?  
Or are we still looking for a Warrior King who will turn the world upside down?

**HYMN PH #187 BH #387** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

#### **OFFERING**

The willingness to give is a sign of life. The fruit tree gives of its fruit, and we know it is alive. When it no longer gives, we know real life has gone out of it. The heart that hoards the blessings of God is no longer alive with spiritual power. To give is to live.

Let us pray...

God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

*Will the Ushers Please come forward.*

## OFFERTORY

### 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

God, whose gracious love for us embraced that long and lonely journey to the cross, gather us close to you in these days when again we make that journey in meditation and recollection.

Help us to contemplate again the way taken by our Savior: the false charges against him, the fear and flight of the disciples, the kiss of betrayal, the crown of thorns, the purple robe—and in such contemplation give us courage to face those times in our own lives when he received the same at our hands. Yet help us also remember that you have gone before us, so we look to you for compassion and forgiveness, knowing you are able to save.

When we are weak, make us strong; when hurt and resentful, make us forgiving; when defeated and discouraged, make us hopeful. Keep us from asking for mercy without giving it ourselves, from praying for your kingdom but never working for it. In this week, deepen our faith by your matchless grace. Deepen the measure of our gratitude and Christian obedience. Move us, who have so much, to share with others who have so little. Uphold us when we summon our courage to speak out for the alien and stranger within our gates and for those long denied dignity and freedom.

Guard and guide us through these days of meditation and remembrance. Guard and guide us through all our days until we come at last to that day when all our days and journeys will be gathered into your eternity, and we shall be with you forever. Glory be to you, O God. 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 PH #197 BH #89** “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

**CHARGE** —Luke 9:23, NRSV

If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Let us Pray:

God and Father of Jesus Christ, we leave this place for a week in which busy activities and worshipful remembrance are intertwined. Teach us, even now, how to make every day a day of prayer, so that each day of our lives is filled with hope because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

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