

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Gospel Reading: 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 fulfill 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."

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:26-27

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Hymn 196

"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!

1 Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. (Refrain)

2 The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. (Refrain)

3 To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (Refrain)

4 Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King! (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***O Lord, on this day you entered the beloved city that rejected you.
We confess that our wills are rebellious,
that our faith is often more show than substance,
that our hearts are in need of cleansing.
Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives.
Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are,
trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken,
to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen.***

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

During Lent, we will refrain from singing alleluias.

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9(a)

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
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.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

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.

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; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

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

Special Music

“Just Beyond the Palms”

Joseph Martin

Second Lesson: Matthew 27:15-24

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to

release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Sermon: "If the Crowd Turns"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 198

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

1 Ride on! ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 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.

3 Ride on! ride on in majesty! The hosts of angels in the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 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.

Affirmation of Faith: Philippians 2:6-11

***Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.
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 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 223

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor
Director of Music
Organist
Liturgist

Rev. William G. Carter
Frank Jones
Jan Thyren
Rev. Jim Thyren

**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
(570) 586-6306
www.fpccs.org**