



**April 2, 2023 – 11:15 AM
Order of Worship**

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

‘Trumpet Voluntary’

John Stanley

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

On the back of a donkey, Jesus came to save us. On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus came to heal us. In the joy of laughing children and the shouts of loud hosannas, Jesus came to show us the way.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We praise and bless you, ever-living God, for the acts of love by which you redeem the world through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: This day he entered into the holy city of Jerusalem and was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way.

Pastor: Let these branches be for us signs of his victory; grant that we, who bear them, may always acclaim Jesus “Messiah,” by walking the way of his suffering and cross;

People: that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*Jesus, Remember Me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Pastor: Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: Hosanna in the Highest!

Pastor: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna in the Highest!

Psalm 118:14-29

Ps. 118:25
William Mathias

RESPONSE 1 (Passion/Palm Sunday)



Bless-ed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord! Ho-san-na in the high-est!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN“ Mantos y Palmas (Filled with Excitement)”

No. 279

*Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the city streets
There in the distance, they begin to see riding on a donkey, comes the Son of God
From every corner, a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the Name of God
With one great shout of acclamation, loud triumphant song breaks forth
“Hosanna, hosanna to the King! Hosanna, hosanna to the King!”*

*As in that entrance to Jerusalem, we sing hosannas to the Christ our King
To the living Savior who still calls today asking us to follow Him with love and faith
From every corner, a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the name of God
With one great shout of acclamation, loud triumphant song breaks forth
“Hosanna, hosanna to the King! Hosanna, hosanna to the King!”*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the day to remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem:.

People: The day to remember the glad shouts of the people...

Pastor: The day to remember those who inflicted the pain...

People: The day to remember those who partook of the burdens...

Pastor: The day to remember that we, like the chief priests, betray the Lord by stealth...

People: The day to remember that we, like the woman with the ointment, owe the Lord our best...

Pastor: The day to remember that we, like Judas, sell the Lord for silver....

People: The day to remember that we, like Pilate, reject conscience for the crowd...

Pastor: The day to remember that we, like Simon of Cyrene, can bear the Savior's cross...

People: The day to remember that we, like Jesus, must die to self to live for God.

Pastor: Let us sing Hosanna to the son of David and worship our King!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we came this day filled with excitement and enthusiasm like all those who gathered at the side of the road to cheer and wave palms that day in Jerusalem so long ago. Increase our faith and listen to our prayers as we honor you this day. Help us to always live in you and to glorify your Name. Amen.

INTROIT

'Tell Me the Stories of Jesus'

No. 277, v. 3

Into the city I'd follow the children's band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand; one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

PROCLAMATION AND ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

(The Palms Speak Out of God's Plan)

Pastor: After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying,

People: "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. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."

Pastor: So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owner asked them,

People: "Why are you untying the colt?"

Pastor: They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now 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, saying

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

Pastor: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,

People: "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."

Pastor: He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

HYMN

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

No. 280, vs. 1 & 4

*All glory laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One.
All glory laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer, King
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*To Thee before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to Thee now high exalted, our melody we raise;
All glory laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring*

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

One day, we are crying to God, "Save us," the next we are turning our backs on God and walking away. Despite our fickle nature, God is steadfast in loving us and constant in forgiving us. Let us confess to our God, as we pray.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Righteous One, we often ignore the desire of our hearts. We long to sing hosannas with a cheering crowd, but we turn aside at the site of any angry mob. We yearn to dine lovingly at your table, but we retreat into the courtyard shadows. We hope to defend the one we love, but we succumb to the limits of our strength. It is so easy to betray you with a kiss. Forgive our fickle faith and heal our hesitant hearts, for our spirits ache to be found worthy. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Hear the good news!
The procession is ever moving forward.
We can join at any moment.
The invitation still stands!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! AMEN!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'The Old Rugged Cross'

No. 504, V. 3

*SHARING THE PEACE

The Prince of Peace rode into Jerusalem in lowly estate to bless us. Let us claim our heritage as children of peace by sharing signs of our kinship with one another.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATING THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Whether we are bringing a colt or spreading our clothes on the road, whether we are writing a check with many zeros or dropping a few coins in the plate, our gifts are symbols of welcoming Christ. Every gift is a blessing. Every gift is needed. Let us welcome Christ as we share our offerings with God.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

'Chorale: 'Soul adorn thyself with gladness'

J. S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY

(Sung to the tune of the regular doxology)

***Praise to our God, wave high the palm. Praise to Christ Jesus, God's own Son.
Praise to the Spirit, now we sing, for in our hearts hosannas ring. Amen***

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Spirit of humble generosity, thank you for your never-failing mercy; thank you for Christ's gift of selfless love; thank you for the witness of our forebearers. For blessing us with many gifts, we thank you. For walking with us in our weakness, we praise you. Receive these gifts in token and thanks for the love you offer us, a love that makes us well and whole. AMEN.

THE PASSION THROUGH SONG

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Pastor: In celebration, we join the crowds of old,

People: waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.

Pastor: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet, for our story doesn't end here.

People: We know the pain of what lies ahead.

Pastor: Today, anticipates the rest of the story-----

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You there' No. 288)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

SECOND READING

Luke 22:14-23

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You there' No. 288)

Were you there when they sold him for a price? Were you there when they sold him for a price? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they sold him for a price?

THIRD READING

Luke 22:39-46

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when he prayed in Gethsemane? Were you there when he prayed in Gethsemane? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when he prayed in Gethsemane?

FOURTH READING

Luke 22:47-62

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when his friends left him to die? Were you there when his friends left him to die? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when his friends left him to die?

FIFTH READING

Luke 23:1-25

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when the crowds yelled crucify? Were you there when the crowds yelled crucify? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when the crowds yelled crucify?

SIXTH READING

Luke 23:26-43

HYMN

(Sung to the tune: 'Were You There' No. 288)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

SEVENTH READING

Luke 23:44-56

RESPONDING

Pastor: The day is as silent as death.

People: Gone are the loud hosannas sung by children in the streets.

Pastor: The day is as silent as death.

VEILING THE CROSS

(The chimes will be struck 33 times in honor of Jesus' years of earthly life.)

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Before this week ends, the Palm branches will be drying on the roadside. The joyful crowd will become an angry mob, and Jesus will replace robes of victory with a crown of thorns. So then, go in the knowledge that whatever comes to you in this week, you are held in the hand of God, hugged tight, held close, and may God, the Three-in One, bless you, uphold you and give you strength for the journey ahead. Amen.



SILENT RECESSIONAL



Lucille McBride (Lana's sister) – in hospice
Those affected by tragedy in Nashville
Ellie Holderbaum (Ginnie's family friend 19th year old daughter) -kidney stone operation and recovery
John McQuade – medical issues
Annie (Viehland's friend) - surgery
Diane (Carolyn's friend) - recovery from surgery
Families who are traveling
Seth (Robert Morris's son) - accident
Donna (Carolyn's friend) - brain tumors
Wally (Carolyn's friend) - lung cancer
People of Turkey & Syria
People of East Palestine, Ohio
President Carter—in hospice
Jim White (Ginnie's son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery
Steven Akers—health concerns
Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris—health concerns
Janice Melonic (Carolyn's friend) - diagnosed with cancer
Holly Davis
Dorothy Hawkins
Fawn Sherwin – health concerns
Jim (Mary K's friend) - cancer treatments
Kristin (Sue's friend) - diagnosed with thyroid cancer
Liz Swartz (Carolyn's friend) - prayers needed
Debbie Valera – recouping from surgery
Barbara Thaw –continued prayers
Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers
Aubrie (Ginnie's granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer
Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer
Gary (Ginnie's son) - continued good health
Pastor Russel W. Shuluga
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian – Pittsburgh District Superintendent
Prayers that the violence will stop
Those affected by COVID
Peacemakers
People of Ukraine
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
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**A WELCOMING, WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING, CARING, LEARNING COMMUNITY
OF FAITH**

WELCOME!

Everyone is welcome, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.

where faith & life meet



Mifflin Avenue
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors *wide open*. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, please stay with us. We invite visitors to join with us, and most of all, to return often.