

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**Palm Sunday**

**April 2, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Meditation before Worship**

*Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of worship, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem—to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—so that united with him and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the New Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

One Great Hour of Sharing

Melissa Canney

## **\*Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Not only the sins of the high and mighty, of priest and palace, but the sins of the populace, common people like you and me, sent Jesus to the cross.

**People:** **Ordinary people like us shouted, "Hosanna," and then later, "Crucify him!"**

**Leader:** For only those who know love can betray love; only those who have heard truth can choose to deny it.

**People:** **Yet we are not without hope, for Jesus' faithfulness was stronger than our betrayal, and his forgiveness greater than**

**our guilt.**

Leader: Let us sing and celebrate; let us worship and give thanks to the God of grace.

**\*Hymn**

“Filled with Excitement”

#199

**The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

**O God, we sing and praise you when we are among others who praise you, too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us. We turn against you when we are too busy to seek you or too selfish to obey you. Yet, your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore a right spirit within us and bring us together to worship you once more. God of steadfast love, teach us to be steadfast. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

(Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response**

“Lord, Have Mercy”

#551

**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children’s Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

Zechariah 9:9-17

**Choir Anthem**

“The Palms”

Jean-Baptiste Faure, 1864

Crown ye with palms the Savior’s onward way,  
With branches green his holy path adorn;  
Jesus is come to wipe all tears away.  
Prepare his way upon this festal morn;  
Join hands and sing with one accord,  
Let every voice resound with adoration.  
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord!  
Blessed is he who comes to save the world!

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,  
For all the children sing of deliverance.  
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem  
Brings faith and hope to you forevermore.  
Join all and sing with one accord,  
Let every voice resound with acclamation.  
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord!  
Blessed is he who comes to save the world!

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 21:1-11

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

“Being Christ-Bearers”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

## **The Response to the Word**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **\*Invitation to Offering**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pew to the center aisle and return to your pew from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to bring communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

**\*Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

Pastor: May the God of hosannas be with you.

**People: May the God of this holy week be with you.**

Pastor: Lift your broken hearts to our God,

**People: who will fill them with hope in these days.**

Pastor: Remember to sing laments during this holy time,

**People: we do so, that we may know the reason for glad songs of joy.**

**\*Hymn of Invitation**

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

#197

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: Morning by morning ... we join our voices, singing,

**People: Holy, holy, holy, God of enduring love. From every part of creation come glad songs. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in humility and hope. Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Holy are you ... we would ponder that mystery we call faith:

**People: In trust, Christ died. In joy, Christ was raised to new life. In hope, Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Here at the table graced with creation’s gifts ... Amen.

**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.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

# Communion of the People

## Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we entered this sanctuary today, like the crowds in the Palm Sunday parade, hoping to get a glimpse of our king. Through worship and the sacrament, we entered into your presence. Now, let us be Christ-bearers into the world. Amen.

### The Sending of God's People

\*Closing Hymn

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

#198

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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\*Postlude

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

**Pastors:** Désirée M. Youngblood  
Steve Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Cindy Newman

**Acolyte:** Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

When Cindy was 6 years old, her family moved to London when her father became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. You might know him ... Rev. Gordon Johnson. Cindy has served the church in several capacities over the years ... Sunday School teacher (for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, unruly 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys, junior high students, and adults). She has also been a church camp advisor, youth group advisor, assistant church custodian, a member of the Presbyterian Women, Board of Deacons (clerk), and choir member. Currently, Cindy is a ruling elder.

Cindy is married to Rob, and they have 3 adult sons who all live/work in the Columbus area ... Nick, Drew, and Zach. Cindy is a registered nurse and works as an Instructional Designer in the Learning Dept. at Ohio Health.