

THE SEASON OF LENT: SEARCHING FOR LIGHT

WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER

PALM SUNDAY | APRIL 5, 2020

Prelude | *The Palms* —Jean Baptiste Faure, arr. Lani Smith

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!
Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!
Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!
Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the lord.



Hymn | #196 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” —Verses 1 and 2

Refrain All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring! Fine

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;

to Refrain

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.

Confession

One: Let us face this day of palms and Jesus' passion with honesty, confessing our sin before God.

All: **Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your dying, comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude. We have looked to you for paltry favors, when you have given everything. We have withheld from your people, our neighbors, and from your creation, our Earth, the care and tending they deserve. We have rejected the cornerstone you sent to build a people of righteousness even here, today. Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision, so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.** (Silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Your God has come to you, (Matt. 21:5) humble, in the form of a slave, (Phil. 2:7) to free you from the weight of sin and death. Jesus' obedient suffering has released you. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the one who is exalted (Phil. 2:9) beyond what we can comprehend: Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen!**

The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you. **All:** **And also with you.**
One: Together, let us share words and signs of peace.

Worshiping With Our Children

Prayer of Illumination

All: **Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the holy spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Scripture 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."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon | “Long-Expected, Suddenly Here” —Rev. Cader Howard

Special Music | *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* —Isaac Howard, cello

Affirmation of Faith —adapted from a *Declaration of Faith*

One: God is made known in Jesus Christ.

All: Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement.

One: Jesus' compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.

All: Jesus' demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand.

One: Jesus' willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.

All: Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love, life eternal.

Call for the Offering

All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is within it.

While we worship in a multitude of places, we gather together our respective offerings, knowing that God will take them, bless them and use them for the building up of the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. Amen.

Offertory | *If You But Trust In God to Guide You* —arr. Mark Sedio

If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.

Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.



Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Hymn | #265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" —Verses 1, 2 and 5

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude | Postlude in C —Henry Purcell

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preacher—Rev. Cader Howard

Pianist—Laura Edman

Cantor—Tim Edman

Liturgist—Maggie Bachman

Special Thanks —to Isaac Howard for his offering of music today.

SUPPORT THE MISSION & MINISTRY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please continue to support First Presbyterian with your tithes and offerings.

If you feel so moved, you can send additional donations to help with community assistance through our Emergency Fund and the Cents-ability and Food Shelf Funds.

You can pay online at www.fpc-stillwater.org and click on “GIVING”

MAIL CHECKS TO:

First Presbyterian Church, 6201 Osgood Av. N., Stillwater, MN 55082

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!

COVID-19 UPDATES

All in-person activities at the church have been cancelled through at least through the end of April. Decisions about resuming any activities will be made only on the recommendation of the MN Dept of Health and the CDC. During this time, the church office is closed with staff working from home. If you need to contact staff you can call the church office and leave a message: 651-439-4380, or email to: church@fpc-stillwater.org. Let us know how we can help.

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

A reminder that if you are sick and live alone or if you are hospitalized, please let someone in the church know so that they can check in on you by telephone. If there is community spread of Covid-19 we'll discourage in-person visits, but please let friends, deacons, or the church office know if you have a need. **Since there is an increased possibility of people being isolated, please check on each other frequently by telephone and let the deacons or church office know about anyone in need.**

NEED HELP OR WANT TO HELP?

Call the church office and leave a message or email us at church@fpc-stillwater.org. Volunteers can assist you with getting groceries, picking up medications, or another need you may have. Call and let us know too, if you want to volunteer.



CONNECTING IN CHRIST TRANSFORMING LIVES

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