FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude from "Te Deum" Marc-Antoine Charpentier/arr. Noel Rawsthorne

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Alleluia! Praise the Lord!
People: Hosanna in the highest! Save us, Lord!
Leader: Alleluia! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
ALL: Come, let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #88

All Glory, Laud, and Honor VALET WILL ICH DIR

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 blessèd 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)**

*Please stand if you are able.

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

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of palm branches and hallelujahs: we love the Palm Sunday celebration. We love the sound of a joyful parade. We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner. But we forget that Palm Sunday was not just a celebration when it happened. We ignore that Christ was not simply riding through a joyful crowd with pleasure, but riding to a shameful death to open the path to eternal life for us. Forgive our indifference, and strengthen our own hearts, that we may journey with courage wherever Christ leads us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:1-17 Jean Hunsicker
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Saying the Quiet Part Loud"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #257
Give Praise to the Lord LAUDATE DOMINUM

1 Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song,
Amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
A song for your maker and ruler now raise,
All children of Zion, rejoice and give praise.

2 With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
With gladness and mirth, we praise Your great name;
For now in Your people good pleasure You seek,
With robes of salvation You cover the meek.

3 In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
With song in the night high praises accord;
Go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
To conquer all evil and stand for the right.

4 For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
But over the earth their power shall prevail;
All kingdoms and nations shall yield to their sway.
To God give the glory; sing praises for aye.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates, Op. 44, No. 2 — William Mathias

Chancel Choir

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors,
And the king of glory shall come in.

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
Even lift them up, ye everlasting doors,
And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give thanks and praise.
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…
As our Savior Christ has taught us, so we pray:

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music Chanson de Matin — Edward Elgar

*SENDING HYMN — #89

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna — ELLACOMBE

1 Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

2 From Olivet they followed
'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven
Ride on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune — Henry Purcell/arr. Noel Rawsthorne

Flowers are from Alesia Dietrich in memory of her parents, Robert and Irma Dietrich, and her in-laws, Garth and Millie Milmine; and from Frances Spicer in memory of loved ones