



Grace First Presbyterian Church
Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025



The Reverend David Slyter, Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world.

As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of God.

Prelude

Healey Willan

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Rebecca Williams

People of Weatherford, bring your garments and branches—Jesus is coming into town! Shout Hosanna! **Hosanna! Our deliverer has come! Let all the hungry be fed!**

Jesus, the servant king, has come to show us a new kind of power.

Hosanna! Our liberator will set the prisoners free!

Let us worship the one who will save us from corruption. Shout Hosanna to the King of Kings!

Hosanna! Hosanna! The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

*Prayer to Invite God's Presence

Holy God, we gather on this Palm Sunday and find ourselves in solidarity with the crowds who shouted for salvation. We know our needs, both individually and collectively. Our hunger for righteousness and justice compels us to proclaim, "Hosanna! Save us!" two thousand years later.

As we begin this journey toward the cross, from admiration to despair, we know we are well-nourished for the path ahead. You have prepared us, fed us with love and truth, and refreshed our spirits throughout the Lenten season. Let us carry the spirit of Hosanna in our hearts, ready to serve and love, knowing the journey continues toward resurrection and renewal. May the bread we break, both physical and spiritual, remind us of your presence in every step. Guide us on this path and sustain us for the work ahead. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 196**

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

"All Glory Laud and Honor"

Children's Moment

Following the Children's Moment, children ages 3—grade 3 who would like to participate in Children's Worship may leave the sanctuary with this week's teachers. Following today's service, you may pick up your child in room 22.

Children's Anthem

Michael Bedford

"Hosanna to the Son of David"

Cherub & Carol Choirs

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, Jesus comes.

Riding on a donkey through the city streets,
Jesus smiles and waves to everyone He meets.

See palm branches waving as the people say,
"Blest is He who comes on this triumphant day!"

Call to Confession

Because human beings often choose corrupt powers to save us, let us confess the ways in which we have shouted “Hosanna” to the empire rather than trusting in Jesus.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy and saving God, we confess we have sought comfort in systems of power that promise salvation through dominance, control, and division. We place our hope in the forces of wealth, status, and self-preservation, rather than in the humility of Christ. We align ourselves with the powers of this world, turning away from the radical love, justice, and peace embodied in Jesus. We fail to notice how the cries for justice of the oppressed mirror the “Hosannas” of hope. We ignore the cries of the poor, the marginalized, and the suffering, choosing instead the easy path of complicity. We turn a blind eye to the earth’s cries and the injustices so many endure. Forgive us, O God, for placing our trust in the powers of this world rather than in the power of your love. Renew our hearts and minds and lead us back to the path of true salvation, where love, justice, and peace reign.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness

Friends, hear this good news: Jesus comes not with armies or powers of this world, but with the radical gift of love and forgiveness.

Though we have often turned away, God in Christ offers us grace and peace. In Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are made whole. Amen.

Music Ministry

J. Faure

"The Palms"
Sanctuary Choir

Where e'er we go, the palms along our way,
Now on this festival their fronds are showing;
Lo, Jesus comes to dry our tears today,
See how to welcome Him the throngs advance.

*Sing, one and all, the chorus raise,
voicing your happy cry of acclamation;
Hosanna! Our Lord we praise!
Bless Him who bringeth us salvation!*

He spake the word, and nations, slaves no more,
joy to regain freedom so long denied them;
man enters on the rights he held of yore,
to them the light that failed He doth restore,

Sing and be glad, O blest Jerusalem,
sing now your sons' glorious liberation;
out of His lore the Christ of Bethlehem
grants you the hope and faith that never fail.

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

God, may the scriptures we read today become living bread. May your Spirit empower them to shape us in Jesus' likeness. Give us wisdom as we interpret these words of scripture; may they nourish our minds and souls. Amen.

First Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

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The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Psalm 118

Hymn 681

Nun Danket All'und Bingit Her
"This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made"

Second Reading

Luke 19:28-40

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The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Message

The Rev. David Slyter

***Hymn 197**

Ellacombe

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

***Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who rode into
Jerusalem not on a warhorse but on a humble
donkey, proclaiming peace instead of domination.**

We believe in the way of the servant leader, where greatness is found in humility, and power is made perfect in love.

We believe in choosing integrity over bluster, faithfulness over greed, and justice over the empty promises of empire.

We believe God's kingdom is not built by violence, but by the transformative power of grace, mercy, and sacrifice.

We believe salvation is not found in the halls of the mighty, but in the heart of Christ, who calls us to walk the road of love and courage.

We believe in shouting "Hosanna" to the one who brings true peace, trusting not in the powers of this world, but in the reign of God that has no end.
Amen.

Prayer for the people and the Lord's Prayer (Responsive)

God of compassion, who breaks bread with us at the table of justice, we pray for all who hunger in this world. We remember those who struggle under oppressive systems, those whose voices are unheard, and those whose needs are unmet.

Hosanna, save us.

We pray for those who suffer from the scarcity of resources, whether food, shelter, or safety. Remind us that true justice is found in sharing the bread of life with one another, offering not only sustenance for the body but dignity and respect for all.

Hosanna, save us.

We ask you to stir our hearts to action—to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and speak out against injustice. Strengthen us in the broken bread of Christ, who gave all for the sake of the world, and may we be willing to do the same.

Hosanna, save us.

We pray for the leaders of this world, that they may have hearts open to the cries of the oppressed and the wisdom to lead with fairness and compassion. Guide them as they seek peace and justice for all.

Hosanna, save us.

Help us, O God, to be witnesses of your love, working to build a world where all people can partake of the bread you offer, and where justice and peace reign. We offer this prayer, trusting in the power of your love to transform the world. Through Christ, the bread of life, we pray the prayer He taught us to pray saying... **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.**

Call to Stewardship

God has given us everything in the form of God's only Son. As we come to this time of offering, be inspired by the One who has already given us all that we have and need. bring your offerings to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Offertory

Anna Laura Page

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

*Doxology

Hymn 607

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer

Gracious God who saves, we bring our gifts to you. We offer our time, talents, and resources for your work in the world. May these gifts be a sign of our trust in you, and may they nourish your mission of love, justice, and hope for all. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 198

St. Drostan

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"

*Benediction

Go now into the world brimming with love for God and others. May you share the bread of life, offering not only what sustains the body but what nourishes the soul. Live your lives serving in the way of Jesus, extending compassion to the

weary, hope to the despairing, and bread to the hungry. As you go, may the love of God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Choral Response** Hal H. Hopson

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you,
The Lord give you peace. Amen.

***The Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

***Postlude** arr. Colin Hand

"Jerusalem"

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:
2025 Illustrated Ministry Bread of Life
Cover Art: *Palm Sunday* by Jen Norton

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

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

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

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;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

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.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

681 This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

(Psalm 118)

1 This is the day the Lord hath made; the hours are
 2 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, to Da - vid's
 3 Blest be the Lord, who comes in power with mes - sag -
 4 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains the church on

all God's own. Let heaven re - joice; let
 ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -
 es of grace, who comes in this ac -
 earth can raise! The high - est heavens in

earth be glad, and praise sur - round the throne.
 scend and bring sal - va - tion from the throne.
 cept - ed hour to save our sin - ful race.
 which God reigns shall now re - sound with praise.

These stanzas provide Watts's paraphrase of Psalm 118:24-29 (minus a stanza he inserted about Easter and Pentecost as part of his effort to Christianize the Psalms). They are set to a tune composed for and named by a Paul Gerhardt text, "Now Let All Thank and Bring Honor."

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Johann Crüger, c. 1647

NUN DANKET ALLE UND BRINGET EHRE
 CM

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best,
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

TEXT: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt.
 MUSIC: *Cesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt.

ELLACOMBE
 7.6.7.6.D

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! 198

1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
 2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to

sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

This 19th-century Palm Sunday text is better understood as the reflections of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOGOS—This Wednesday's menu is: Roast with veggies, Salad, Rolls, Heavenly Apple Bake.

Eco-Palms—PC(USA) has been in partnership with Eco-Palms for many years. By partnering with them we are helping families and communities find their way out of poverty. Here is what makes Eco Palms different:

Ecologically friendly—fair prices for quality palms encourage sustainable harvesting, meaning better income long into the future.

Economic opportunities—Eco-Palms are sorted and packed within the harvesting community, extending income opportunities to even more people.

Sustainable income—Eco-Palm harvesters earn five to six times more per frond than traditional palms. Let us proudly wave out Eco-Palms, giving thanks to God and inviting palm harvesters, their families and communities to our celebration.

Holy Week Services

We will celebrate Maundy Thursday with worship and communion this Thursday at 6pm.

Friday we will remember the death of Jesus with service at 6pm.

Then, on Sunday morning at 10:40am we will celebrate the Day of Resurrection with Easter worship!

Join us for this journey through Holy Week honoring the last days of Jesus' life and celebrating his resurrection.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 13

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes
- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Egg-Stravaganza
- 1:30 p.m. Youth Leave for Mission Training, St. Barnabas Pres.

Monday, April 14

- 6:00 p.m. Scout Pack

Tuesday, April 15

- 3:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Scout Troop

Wed., April 16—LOGOS

- 3:15 p.m. Snack
- 4:00 p.m. Recreation
- 4:45 p.m. Children's Choirs
- 5:00 p.m. Bible Study for Adults
- 5:15 p.m. Bible Study for Children and Youth
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thurs. April 17

- 5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
- 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary

Friday, April 18

- 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary
No Youth Group