



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

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April 2, 2023 – 11:00 am

Palm Sunday



"Einzug in Jerusalem," Wilhelm Morgner, 1912

Now a large crowd spread their clothes on the road. Others cut palm branches off the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds in front of him and behind him shouted, "*Hosanna* to the Son of David!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Matthew 21:8-9 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, *Eggs and Ashes: Practical and Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2004); and Dave Broom, *The Cross in the Marketplace: An Easter resource book from Iona* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2014).*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *The Gates of Jerusalem*

DAVID PAXTON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

“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.

***OPENING SENTENCES**

“PALM SUNDAY: OPENING RESPONSES,” DAVE BROOM

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna! Your king comes to you riding on a colt!
The day of liberation is near!

Speak to Jerusalem and cry unto her:
That warfare is ended, that iniquity is pardoned.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us:
***To proclaim the good news to the poor, freedom for the captives,
sight for the blind, liberation for the oppressed, and the year of Jubilee.***

The Kingdom is coming.
***Let us beat our swords into ploughshares
and our spears into pruning hooks.***

Let us worship our God.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

“PALM SUNDAY IS ALWAYS HAPPENING,” KATHY GALLOWAY

O Christ, you entered the city as a poor man,
not in style but simply,
yet still you caused uproar, and questions everywhere;

you draw the expectations of a hungry crowd,
and brought buried conflicts to the light.
May we, who are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval,
and who often avoid conflict
for fear of its cost to us,
hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice
and follow faithfully in your way of compassion and solidarity
with those who are poor and excluded,
wherever it may lead us.

Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God,
whose word silences the shouts of the mighty:
Quiet within us every voice but your own.
Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ
that by the power of your Holy Spirit
we may receive grace to show Christ's love
in lives given to your service.

Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 32:1-2

PEW BIBLE, 686

MATTHEW 18:15-35

PEW BIBLE, 1195-1196

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

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.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

Throughout Lent we will be praying through the Lord's Prayer. We will begin this time of prayer by the choir singing the Lord's Prayer, reciting a brief litany, and then praying and meditating on the specific phrase from the Lord's Prayer of the day. This week, however, instead of bringing up a prayer cloth to leave at the foot of the cross, you are invited to take a piece of white cloth from the table as a reminder of your prayer throughout Holy Week while we chant The Lord's Prayer.

Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves,
singing together the prayer our Lord taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (CHOIR)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

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For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

We will now enter into a time of silent prayer. You are invited to pray and meditate on the phrase "for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever" while holding your prayer cloth.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: The Lord's Prayer

As our time of silent prayer is concluded, you are invited to come forward and leave your cloth at the foot of the cross, symbolizing bringing your Lenten prayer before Christ while we sing together. Once you place your cloth, please pick up a rock with the name of a member of the church on it. We will pray for one another after the sermon.

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 sins, as we forgive them that sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Cantata: "Praise the God of Resurrection"

In the Beginning Was the Word

LLOYD LARSON/QUOTING "GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD," JOHN STAINER

God's Holy Lamb

MARK HAYES

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today during the cantata by inviting everyone who wants to participate up front to receive the bread and cup (we use grape juice). If you are more comfortable remaining seated but would like to participate, raise your hand and we will come to your seat to serve you. We believe that Jesus invites everyone forward to his table to "taste and see," and so we proclaim that all are welcome to participate. You are invited.

You Are the Bread

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

...As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat, for this is my body broken for you."

Then He took a cup of wine, saying "Take and drink, for this is my blood poured out for you."

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord,
until he comes again.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

King of Tears

JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Three Crosses of Shame

LLOYD LARSON/J. PAUL WILLIAMS

Praise the God of Resurrection!

JOHN PARKER, HENRY VAN DYKE, MARK HAYES/QUOTING "HYMN TO JOY," BEETHOVEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are once again invited to enter into a time of silent prayer.

PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

"A PRAYER ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM," IAN COWIE

O Living God, age after age the children of dust make their way to holy places to seek you,
yet you are closer than hands or feet.

In temples and in churches people make sacrifices and offerings,
but what you seek is the love and well-being of your children.

Your Word promises that those whose hands are clean and whose hearts are pure
can climb the heavenly hill; but who are we to do that?

On our journey through life our hearts and our hands have become stained and dirtied.

If we have stretched out our hands in greed, or lust, or love of money,
Lord, cleanse us by your mercy.

If our hearts have been sullied by pride or resentment,
Lord, cleanse us by your mercy.

If we have turned aside from our pilgrimage to follow the world's ways,
or to seek false gods, or spirits other than your Holy Spirit,
Lord, cleanse us by your mercy.

Lord, you forgive the sins of all who turn to you in sincerity;
you cleanse the penitent heart from all uncleanness.
Lord, set our course according to your word
so that we may take up afresh the challenge of the journey to the holy city.

Give us new strength to follow you on your way,
so that even we may ascend the hill of the Lord
and stand in that holy place.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

Refrain:

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. **(Refrain)**

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before Thee we present. **(Refrain)**

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. **(Refrain)**

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

***SENDING**

Siblings,
let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV)

The God of Jesus Christ –
who calls us to walk with him
to face the principalities and powers,
to live the values of the upside-down Kingdom,
to work, to challenge, to suffer –
be with you this Holy Week.
Now and for evermore.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: *Fanfare for the King*

ROBERT J. HUGHES

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

"PALM SUNDAY: BLESSING," DAVE BROOM



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April 2nd Psalm Sunday Service – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Palm Sunday service will include a Cantata sung by our choir and Communion.

April 3rd – April 9th Stations of the Cross – All day – here in the Recreation Area

We are excited to offer our Recreation Area as a space for the community for prayerful reflection during Holy Week. Our 15 stations (including a final station for the Resurrection) will utilize ecumenical meditations and prayers from the Iona Community.

April 6th Maundy Thursday Dinner Church – 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Come and join us for Dinner Church, a meal and liturgy around the table as we commemorate the Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. RSVP to the office at 336-227-4041. Come as you are – all are welcome!

April 7th Good Friday Seven Last Words – 6:30 in the Sanctuary

We will hold a service of prayer and reflection on the Seven Last Words. Please note that there will be extended periods of silence and a darkened sanctuary during this service.

April 9th Easter Sunday – 11am in the Sanctuary

Our Easter celebration. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

April 11th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30.

Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 2nd - Palm Sunday & Communion

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Monday-Sunday, April 3rd – 9th - Stations of the Cross

All day at the Recreational Area

Wednesday, April 5th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Thursday, April 6th

6:30 – Dinner Church in Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 7th

6:30 – Good Friday – Seven Last Words

Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunday

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

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Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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