

# Morning Worship Service

## Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

11:00 A.M.

*For too many people, Holy Week has two days in it – Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday and Easter. Both are days with celebrative qualities to them. But in between those two days was the real drama of our Lord's sacrifice.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Fanfare* William Mathias

INTROIT *Arioso from Cantata 156* J. S. Bach

PALM SUNDAY CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**People: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Leader: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

**People: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Leader: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

**People: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.**

PRAYER AT THE START OF HOLY WEEK AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, you have fed us all out of your own generous and gracious hands. From them, we have received welcome, nourishment, hope, and consolation.

May these things grow in us, alongside the gift of faith, so that we may plant their seeds in the world around us.

Through the Holy Spirit, guide us in the week ahead to remember our place in your great and ongoing story of resurrection, redemption, and restoration through Jesus Christ our Lord who 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. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE 89 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us now confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments Of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress. May we pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**On this Sunday, O God, we remember how quickly we change. How fickle we are, how we pledge our devotion one moment and turn our backs the next. We go from shouting "Hosanna! Save Us!" to "Crucify Him." We declare that we love our neighbors, and then we turn our backs on the homeless and hungry in our communities.**

**We speak up for change and justice in one breath, and then continue unjust practices in daily lives by what we consume and the needs we ignore.**

**Forgive us, O God, for we are half-hearted believers. Forgive us, O God, for we are partial justice warriors. Forgive us, O God, for we tire easily and we forget, and we grow weary.**

**Forgive us, restore us, and renew us for the journey of faith, so that we might become whole people who live wholly into Your vision of new life. In the name of Christ, who lived into the fullness of humanity, and whom we follow. (Pause for reflection and self-examination) Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever.

**People: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen.**

\*RESPONSE – No. 579 "Gloria Patri"  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* James Biery

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 31:9-16  
Gospel Reading: Luke 23:1-5, 26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Avoiding the Cross**

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

AFFIRMATION 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. From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**A SHORT LITANY AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS**

Leader: Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.

**People: Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.**

Leader: Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

**People: Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.**

Leader: Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

**People: Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.**

Leader: Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

**People: Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we have never met you.**

Leader: Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

**People: Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it is too painful to see you on the cross.**

Leader: Today we have expressed our unsuppressed hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

**People: Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.**

Leader: Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

**People: Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.**

CLOSING HYMN NO. 88 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

SENDING WORDS

And now we lay down the palm branches. And with them we lay down our belief that there is another way for you to be God.

As the last echo of the final alleluia fades, so does our hope that this journey can end in any other way.

The week stretches ahead glory-less and pain-full.

Whether we walk with all faith or none; we look towards the cross, knowing it is both the most human and most divine of all journeys.

Travel the road with courage, with love, and with the uneasy peace that is the gift of faith into this holiest of weeks. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*God of Grace*

Paul Manz

\*Congregation standing as able.

## THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

### SUNDAY, MARCH 28

9:45 A.M. Sunday school

11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube, *registrations required to attend the service.*

### MONDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, MARCH 30

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih

7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

### THURSDAY, APRIL 1

7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service, Stuart Garden, *registrations required to attend the service.*

### FRIDAY, APRIL 2

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

7:00 P.M. Good Friday Service, *registrations required to attend the service.*

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Welcome to worship!** This service will live streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo* or click [this link](#). We also invite you to visit our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

**Are you looking for a church home?** If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

**The Palms** are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in remembrance of the triumphal entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem by the family of Susan Newton McDonald.

**The Palm Trees and Large Planter in the breezeway** were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Erskine Bishop and Mr. and Mrs. Brittain Allen Rogers, Jr., by Alice and Britt Rogers.

**After the children's sermon**, pre-kindergarteners through second graders are invited to attend "**Wee Kirk**" with Heather Crotwell. This is a time of age appropriate lessons, songs, and games intended to prepare our children to fully participate in worship. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

**Nursery Care** is available for newborns through 4-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

## PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Cancer Treatments:** Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler

**Homebound:** Mary Evelyn Maxwell, Betty Nash, Claudia Neelly

**College Students:** Carli Hillhouse, Emma Kantack, Bennett Mark

*(Homebound and college students are listed each week on a rotation from our complete list.)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We rejoice in welcoming Tracy Kramer to our church family.** She comes to us by transfer of letter.

**Worship with us in the weeks ahead!** The Session of FPC at its March meeting unanimously approved returning to the Sanctuary for in-person worship. Attendance is limited, and reservations are required.

**For our Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary, registration is required.** You may [register online](#) or call the church office, 662-842-5681. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 29 and ends at 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 31.

**For our Good Friday service on April 2 at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary, registration is required.** You may [register online](#) or call the church office, 662-842-5681. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 29 and ends at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 1.

**For the 6:00 A.M. Easter Sunrise Outdoor Service on April 4 in Stuart Garden, no registration is required.**

**For the 9:00 A.M. Easter Sunday service on April 4, registration is required.** You may [register online](#) or call the church office, 662-842-5681. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 29 and ends at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 1.

**For the 11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday service on April 4, registration is required.** You may [register online](#) or call the church office, 662-842-5681. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 29 and ends at 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 1.

**We are live streaming our 11:00 A.M. service today**, available for viewing on our YouTube channel.

**St. Luke UMC Food Pantry has asked us for volunteers on Thursday, April 1** to assist in food distribution. There are two time slots—7:45 A.M.-10:00 A.M. and 9:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M. The vast majority of the work requires volunteers to be on their feet and be able to walk without issue. If you are interested or need more information about this local mission opportunity, please call or text Sally Kate Collins at (662) 871-3761. This need for volunteers arises each month on the First Thursday of the month. We hope you will consider serving regularly.

**Vaccine Assistance**—A group of faithful FPC members has graciously offered to help schedule vaccine appointments for anyone online or by phone. This dedicated group will also happily drive vaccine recipients to their Tupelo appointment or even to counties located outside of Lee County. They look forward to hearing from you! Please call Cindy Faucette at 662-231-6827, or email her at [cfaucette@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfaucette@bellsouth.net).

Weekly Budget: \$16,960

YTD Budgeted Income: \$218,880

Amount Received 3/14/20: \$11,786

YTD Income Received: \$295,475

# Palm Sunday

at

## First Presbyterian Church

*Hosanna in the Highest!*



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Tupelo, Mississippi

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Visit us online: [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)

[www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupeloms](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupeloms)