

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." *--Luke 19:40*

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are welcome in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

**OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Thursday, April 6th.
Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.**

Morning Worship†

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

-- *Folliott Sandford Pierpoint*

WE GATHER on the PLAZA

(Those who wish to be seated can be.)

*CALL to WORSHIP *(Based on Psalm 118)*

Let us be a multitude of disciples, saying together

✘ **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Open to us these gates,

✘ **that we may enter and give thanks to our God!**

This is the day the Lord has made;

✘ **LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD!**

*We process in, using all 3 doors, singing the Sanctus & waving palms.
Take your palms to the chancel.*

*SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

✘ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Glory in the highest!

Blessed! Blessed!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

hosanna in the highest.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Chivalrous Virtues: Courage

W. Zeitler

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* Stand if you are able

✘ The congregation will read.

TIME with the CHILDREN

Please bring forward your fat fish.

[Children are welcome in worship. Activity bags and books are available as you enter. KidSpace resumes 4/16. Kids through pre-K may go to the Nursery.]

***HYMN 196**

All, Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess my brokenness: the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

✘ **May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

✘ **Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the
world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

✘ **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 118:1-2, 19-24

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:28-40

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

You Are a Group Project

Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice

ANTHEM

*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*¹

Gordon Young

Ride on! ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry; O Savior meek, pursue Thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed. Ride on! ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die: O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin O'er captive death and conquered sin. Ride on! ride on, ride on in majesty! Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh; The Father on His sapphire throne, expects His own anointed Son. Ride on! ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, Thy power, and reign. Ride on!

¹ Text: Henry H. Milman. Music: Gordon Young. ©1995 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(If you have a fat fish or other One Great Hour of Sharing offering, you may bring it forward during the offering.

We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes in the world. You may place gifts in the plate during the offertory, or on your way out – or by mail or online.)

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

✘ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might,**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Glory in the highest!

Blessed! Blessed!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

hosanna in the highest.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR 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.

The PRAYER of CONSECRATION

The WORDS of INSTITUTION

SHARING the BREAD and CUP

(Communion will be served by intinction at two stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle. The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free bread can be found at the station by the pulpit. There will be rovers to bring the elements to you if you do not wish to come forward.)

SUNG PRAYERS

As we go forward to partake in the bread and cup, and as we wait and pray before and after, we sing our prayers together. These refrains will be sung over and over as we make them our own prayers.

*These Are the Gifts of God*²

Ruthanne Svendsen

- ✘ **These are the gifts of God**
- These are the gifts of God**
- For the people of God**
- For the new creation**
- These are the gifts of God** *(Repeat)*
- Ev'ry time we eat this bread,**
- Ev'ry time we drink this cup,**
- We proclaim the risen Christ**
- These are the gifts of God.**

*Return to God*³

Marty Haugen

- ✘ **Return to God with all your heart**
- The source of grace and mercy**
- Come seek the tender faithfulness of God**

*Wait for the Lord*⁴

Jacques Berthier

- ✘ **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**
- Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart!**

PRAYER after COMMUNION

- ✘ **God of grace,**
- You renew us at your table with the bread of life.**
- May this meal give us strength for the journey**

² Text & Music: Ruthanne Svendsen. ©2009 Ruthanne Svendsen. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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As we serve you in each other after the manner of Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

*HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*BLESSING and BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Voluntary (1992)* *W. Zeitler*

(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

*Deepen your experience of Jesus' dying and rising by joining us on
Thursday for our celebration of the Last Supper.
We will gather here at 6:00 p.m.*

Easter worship is at 10:30 next Sunday, April 9.

GREETERS: Meryll Davis, Phyllis Hough

USHERS: Jim Siegmund, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

VIDEO ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Sandy Garza, Sally Inglis, Josie Short

Elders: Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane

Deacons: Dave Thomas, Steve Smith, Rebecca Allen

This Weeks' Celebrations

Apr 3 John-Paul Fletcher

Apr 4 Howard Le Roy

Apr 5 Laura Olsen Dunn

Jacob Allen

Kelsey Law

Apr 7 Patricia Parks

Apr 8 Mary Bolaños

Don & Earleen Dudley

HOLY WEEK

Before the joy of Easter, we must accompany Christ through **Maundy Thursday**. We invite you to come with us on **Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.** as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and welcome the mystery of the cross at our Maundy Thursday Service.

Bring Flowers for our Easter Garden! On **Saturday, April 8th, come at 9:00 a.m.** to create a garden of glory for our Easter Sunday service. Bring flowers, greens, blooming branches etc. from your yard (in buckets of water to keep them fresh) or if you prefer, pick up a bouquet at the supermarket. Bring pruners and gloves to participate in arranging. No experience is required. Expert members guide the transformation of our plant offerings into individual and collective arrangements that are strikingly beautiful. In this distinctive annual tradition, we create beauty together in imitation of our creative God, as we prepare for the triumph of Easter Sunday!

Butterfly Cookies Needed to celebrate resurrection and new life during Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday. Please bring yours to the kitchen before Worship on April 9th. Thank you for your help!

SAVE THE DATE. On **Sunday, April 23, 2023** First Presbyterian will be hosting our annual **Blood Drive** in association with LifeStream. Blood donations are critically needed and **WE CAN HELP**. More information will be forthcoming. **Remember: Sunday, April 23!!**

Help us keep our website current! If you are a committee chair or activity leader, take a look at our website (<https://www.fpcsb.net>), and see if the information on your ministry is current and correct. If not, please send comments/corrections to webadmin@fpcsb.net. If you take photos of church activities, send them to the same address.

Remember! Sunday, December 31st, 2023 is when we will celebrate our 150th anniversary as a church! Watch for more information. If you have current photos or photos from years past showing the life of our church, you can help with the celebration by letting us have a copy. There is a box on the reception desk in the office to put the photos in. Please write your name on the back of the photo if you want it to be returned to you. Or send a digital photo or a scan of a photo to Mimi Lange at churchoffice@fpcsb.net!

News and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

MUSIC BOX

It's no wonder that the palm was extremely important to the desert communities of the Middle East: they played a pivotal role in building and fueling early cultures. They were grown 7000 years ago (at least!) for their shade, high-energy fruit, and construction materials. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has said “few plant species have developed into an agricultural crop so closely connected with human life.”

The palm branch, or palm frond, is a symbol of victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life originating in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world. In Assyrian religion, the palm is one of the trees identified as the Sacred Tree connecting heaven – represented by the crown of the tree, and earth – the base of the trunk. Reliefs from the 9th century BC show winged genii (plural of 'genie!') holding palm fronds in the presence of the Sacred Tree. The Sumerians called it the “Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

Palm fronds are also associated with the goddess Ishtar and are found on the Ishtar Gate – the magnificent eighth gate to the inner city of Babylon (made of blue glazed bricks! The foundation went 45 feet underground!) In ancient Mesopotamia, the date palm may have represented fertility in humans. The Mesopotamian goddess Inanna, who had a part in the sacred marriage ritual, was believed to make dates abundant. Palm stems represented long life to the Ancient Egyptians, and the god Huh was often shown holding a palm stem in one or both hands. The palm was carried in Egyptian funeral processions to represent eternal life.

In ancient Greece, the palm tree was a sacred sign of Apollo, who was born under a palm on the island of Delos. In Rome, the palm became so closely associated with victory that the Latin word 'palma' could be used as a synonym for "victory" and was a sign of any kind of victory.

But, in addition to all the symbolism of the palm tree, there's a mythological dimension as well. That's because the Greek word for 'palm' is 'Phoenix! Yes, the mythical bird! (Strictly speaking the Greeks spelled it PhOINIX, but they used that same word for both the palm and the bird.)

The phoenix is an immortal bird associated with Greek mythology (with analogs in many cultures) that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessor. Some legends say it dies in a show of flames and combustion, others that it simply dies and decomposes before being born again. The origin of the phoenix has been attributed to Ancient Egypt since Herodotus (5th century BCE). Over time the phoenix bird

idea spread and gained a variety of new associations, eventually symbolizing renewal in general as well as the sun, time, the Empire, reincarnation, consecration, resurrection, life in the heavenly Paradise, Christ, Mary, and the exceptional person.

It's hard to say whether ideas of the mythical phoenix bird had much currency in Jewish 1st century Palestine. But from our perspective, the symbolism of the radiant phoenix bird dying and rising from its ashes is apt indeed for Passion Week!

--William Zeidler