

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Matthew 21:5

First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P.O. Box 2729; San Bernardino, California 92406

909.882.3308

www.fpcsb.net

MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. BRIAN S. SYMONDS

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

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 with those who rejoice, weep with 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.

**OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Thursday, April 2nd, and
Sunday, April 12th.**

Morning Worship†

Lector: Katie Smith

REFLECTION BEFORE the SERVICE

“When we look deeper into the context of this story, we uncover how two parades are occurring at once. Jesus’ unconventional and unexpected entry into the city parallels the extravagant parade of Pilate, the Roman governor. As both leaders enter the city for the Passover, they embody different directions. Pilate commands military dominance and imperial power; Jesus ushers in the kingdom of God and the way of peace. Within the chaos and commotion of this scene, which leader will you follow? Jesus’ journey to the cross should always catch us off guard. As dismayed as the disciples, we ask, “Jesus, are you really headed this way, straight to your death?” Many of our weekly questions throughout the season so far have helped us prepare spiritually for Holy Week. Now we examine if our beliefs have changed our behaviors. Has your path changed? In the midst of opposing forces, which way will you go?”

by Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow

WE GATHER on the PLAZA

*CALL to WORSHIP

Where is he going?

✘ **Isn't he from Nazareth?**

Can anything good come from Nazareth?

✘ **Is he headed to Jerusalem?**

Do you think Jerusalem is safe?

✘ **Does he know that Pilate is here?**

Where is he going?

✘ **Does he know the city is dangerous?**

Does he see the Pharisees watching?

✘ **Is this the one we've been waiting for?**

Could this be the Messiah?

✘ **Where is he going?**

The crowds are singing, “Hosanna!” Should I lay down my cloak?

✘ **Is this the beginning of the end?**

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

* Stand if you are able ✘ The congregation will read.

Should we follow? Should we watch?

✘ **Should we sing, "Hosanna"?**

Stay awake! He's on the move.

✘ **Where is he going?**

Listen.

✘ **Where is he going?**

Watch.

✘ **Where is he going?**

Stay close.

✘ **Where is he going?**

Sing, "Hosanna."

✘ **Hosanna! Amen.**

We process in together, lay palm fronds on steps and be seated, singing the Sanctus.

***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.

INTROIT

Antiphonal Hosanna

G. Alan Smith

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

WELCOME & GREETING

Please read all that is printed in this bulletin, and join us for Holy Week observances and Easter joy!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

When we say, "We don't sin," we deny who we are. But when we say, "There's no way out," we deny who God is. Trusting that God's grace is more powerful than our sin, let us confess our sins together.

✘ **God, forgive us for forgetting that you are always coming toward us. You are drawing near, like a king on a donkey. Help us find you in our midst.**

Creator God, forgive us for the moments when we choose greed over generosity, or when we choose our self-image over our loyalty to you. Give us the courage to be unabashed in our faith. Give us the strength to throw our coats on the road.

Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, “Hosanna!”

With hope in our hearts we pray to you, Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Amen.

Family of faith, there will be days when we withhold our praise. There will be days when we dare not follow. There will be days when we ignore God’s call, when we choose comfort over courage, and ourselves over others. But even on those days, even on our worst days, we belong to God. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

✘ **Nothing can separate us from God’s love. We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve. Hosanna! Amen.**

(We stand and sing the Response)

***SUNG RESPONSE 205 *Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)*¹**

Berthier

(Sing through English & Latin twice.)

**Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.**

**Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity: God will dwell with you.**

SCRIPTURE: Mark 21:1-11

New Testament, pg. 47

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, with a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, that the ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, saying:

*“Tell the daughter of Zion,
‘Look, your king is coming to you,
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

¹ Text: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. ©1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, agent. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-7062545. All rights reserved.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,
“Who is this?” The crowds were saying,
“This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the word of faith that we proclaim.

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN 197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

TIME with the YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Our children are invited to bring their Fat Fish
with them at this time.*

*[Children are always welcome in worship. There is KidSpace today in Room
10 following the Time with the Children.]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

*Rejoice and Sing,
“Hosanna to the King!”*

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the king of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here! *Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the King of kings! Hosanna! Hosanna! With loudest praise, rejoice and sing, “Hosanna to the King!”* Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heav’n’s employ, adorned with prayer, God’s love and joy. *Hosanna! Hosanna! ... Blessed! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed! Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord. Redeemer, come, we open wide our hearts to Thee, come, and abide. Your inner presence let us feel; Your grace and love to us reveal. Hosanna! Hosanna! ... Hosanna to the King! Hosanna to the King!*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Holy God, sometimes it’s hard to hear you over the hosannas. Sometimes it’s hard to hear you over the noise of city streets. Sometimes it’s hard to hear you over our racing thoughts, our mental to-do lists, or our desire to fit in. Sometimes it is hard to hear you in this noisy world. So just as you stopped traffic in Jerusalem, stop traffic here. Pause the rush. Open the gates. Dwell among us, until your Word is all we can hear. We are listening. We are laying down our cloaks. Amen.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

✘ We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering,
who lights a candle in the darkest night,
who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.
We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,
who is bold in seeking justice,
and humble in taking power.
We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it,
cocooning us in hope,
tethering us to one another.
We believe in a God who is always carrying us
from the pain of the world
into the hope of a new day.
That is where God is headed.
That is where we follow.
May it be so.
Amen.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may place your offering in the basket in front or give it to the usher. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

✘ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

PRAYER of THANKS

Holy one, we cannot offer you great treasures as the world measures them. Here is only what we have at hand: cloaks and palm fronds to line your path, and all our ordinary sacrifices. Accept these gifts, and transform them, that we may share in your great work of love.

✘ Amen.

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.

***HYMN 196** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Lamb of God* *Arr. F. Melius Christiansen*

POSTLUDE

*We are pleased to announce that
Sutton Claire Smith
was born to Alex and Brittany Smith
on March 25th.
Congratulations to older sister Emma,
and grandparents Brad and Amy Smith.*

GREETER: Meryll Davis

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

John-Paul Fletcher, Mark Adelson, *Hospitality Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM TEAM: James Welte, Kevin Lamb,
Oliver Lamb, Tim Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Judy Steppins, Lorraine Bishop

Elders: Neal Williams, Robin Edwards, John-Paul Fletcher

Deacons: Dave Thomas, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

This Weeks' Celebrations

Mar 29 Reyna Jones

Stephanie Ross

Apr 1 Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup

Apr 3 John-Paul Fletcher

Apr 4 Howard Le Roy

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Seeking...and discovering

Our Lenten theme invites us to seek where God is being revealed in our lives. This could be in subtle and quiet revelations, or in loud and significant happenings. It could be something someone has done for or said to you, or something you offered another. It could be in beauty or in chaos. Take a moment before or following the worship service and find the giant map in the Narthex. Write on a post-it where God was revealed to you, and stick it on the map...anywhere.

You could do this once or multiple times throughout Lent. The Worship Committee along with Pastor Brian may collect the post-its throughout the season to pray over them and to make room for more revelations. **Blessed discoveries.**

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Fat Fish! Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by disasters. Give a gift for each blanket in your home, or find some blankets that you can donate.

The Fat Fish banks will be collected today in a special collection. We will take up **the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering over two weekends, today and on Easter Sunday.**

This afternoon at 2:00 p.m., come see Cecil B. DeMille's silent film ***The King of Kings*** (1927), presented in the Sanctuary with live accompaniment by William on the organ and Curtiss on the tuba.

DeMille's ***The King of Kings*** tells the story of Holy Week in a sweeping visual style closer to the medieval Passion Plays than to modern historical films — a mythic pageant unfolding on a cosmic scale, inviting us not just to watch, but to enter into the mystery.

Come experience this timeless story in a new way.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd: Join us for an experiential evening in three movements. Beginning with a simple **soup and bread dinner at 5:30pm**, then moving into **contemplative stations** that will guide us into a deeper space of reflecting on the day, and finally concluding with a **Maundy Thursday worship service and communion**. Pastor Brian will be joined by Nancy Wiens to lead us through this experience and act of worship. Come ready to embody the beginning of the story of Jesus's final days leading up to the resurrection. **5:30pm-8:00pm - Come for part of or all of this evening's movements.**

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Butterfly Cookies Needed to celebrate resurrection and new life during Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday. ***Please call the office or leave a note in the collection plate to let us know if you will bring cookies (and how many),*** then bring yours to the kitchen before Worship on April 5th. Thank you for your help!

Saturday Morning, April 4^h, you're invited to help the Worship Committee prepare our sanctuary for Easter morning. Bring your garden's most beautiful flowers, blooming branches, and greenery. (If you bring them in buckets of water, they will stay fresh until arranged!) Bring pruning shears and garden gloves if you would like to help make arrangements. **We will gather at 9:00 a.m.** Come join us, whether you have flowers to bring or not, in our tradition of beauty and creativity, as we prepare for Easter!

Deacon Fun-Raiser! The Deacons are having another fun-raiser **Wednesday, Apr 15th at Red Robin**, 27476 Lugonia Avenue in Redlands. 20% of food sales will be donated to the Deacons. You may show the flyer (available in Fellowship Hall, or just mention it to your server to have your order counted toward our donation. You can also order take-out on that day and have it counted.

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list is available at reception, and on our website. We encourage bargain shopping since all donations can be put to good use. **Currently we would especially appreciate pouches or pop-top cans of meat, fish, or fruit.**

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The Music Box

The tower stood at the center of the city. The steward met him at the base.

“The king is pleased with it,” the steward said. “He wishes it made higher, more grand.”

“And the foundation is sound?” he asked.

“It has stood well all these years.”

For several days the mason walked the tower. He measured, tapped, watched how the light moved along the seams. He climbed the inner stair and counted the turns. It was a good structure. Better than most. He marked out a band of new stone to enlarge the upper ring and set to work.

On the sixth day he noticed a slight settling along the north face: a hairline shift where two stones met. At the base, the stone was cool and damp. He cleared away some mortar where it had been patched. The material beneath was softer than it should have been. He took a chisel and worked it in carefully. The edge sank deeper than it ought to. He stopped, then worked a little further.

Still hollow.

He went to the steward.

“There’s movement in the north base,” he said. “It’s been patched over more than once. The material beneath has degraded.”

The steward frowned. “It has stood for years.”

“It will not stand if we add to it.”

“We did not ask you to work on the foundation.”

“I understand. But anything we do above will bear on what is below.”

The steward was quiet for a moment. “You were called to heighten and decorate the tower.”

“Yes.”

“Then do as you were told.”

He returned to the base alone that evening. He opened the seam again and cleared more of it. The flaw ran deeper than he had hoped.

Not ruin. Not yet.

But wrong.

He sat back on his heels and looked up along the height of the tower. It rose clean and certain into the sky. From above, no one could see what he saw now.

The next day he continued the work as directed. He raised the upper ring, setting the new stone cleanly into the old. The steward came twice and nodded.

“You see,” the steward said, “it needed only skillful hands.”

The mason inclined his head.

At dusk he went again to the base. He brought no men with him. He removed the patched mortar and took out two of the smaller stones. Beneath them, the substrate was fractured and uneven. Someone had tried to correct it years ago. He worked slowly, exposing enough to understand its extent.

It would take weeks—months—to do it properly. The tower would have to be supported, sections dismantled, the load redistributed.

Not what he had been told to do.

He replaced one of the stones, but not as before. He left a narrow line where the joint did not quite close. Then he set another, slightly offset, so that the pattern broke if one looked closely.

Not damage.

But not concealed either.

He finished the upper work. The line of the tower rose a little higher, just as the king had wished.

The king came to see it.

“It is well,” the king said.

The king’s eye moved down the height of the tower. It stopped at the base.

“What is that?” he said.

“A section I opened,” the mason said.

The king looked at it for a long moment. “You were told not to work on the foundation.”

“Yes.”

“And yet you have.”

“I have opened it enough to show the problem.”

“Which I did not ask you to do.”

“No.”

The king turned to the steward. “Relieve him as Builder to the King.”

Another mason was brought in to continue the work. He walked the structure, climbed the stairs, measured the turns. In time he came to the base. Right away he saw the line that did not quite close. He knelt and removed the stone.

The problem was plain.

The mason heard of it from one of the laborers who had worked for him.

“They’ve opened the base,” the man said. “Properly, this time.”

“The king was pleased,” he added. “Said the new mason found a flaw and averted a collapse. Rewarded him handsomely.”

The mason nodded. “Good,” he said.

Weeks later, there was a knock at his door.

“I was told you see what others miss,” she said. “And speak truly.”

He waited.

“There is a hall on my land,” she said. “It stands well enough. But I do not trust it.”

He took up his tools.

“Show me,” he said.

--William Zeitler



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams,
Robin Edwards, John-Paul Fletcher, Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda,
Amy Gano, Rick Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith,
Rebecca Allen, Brent Nord, Dave Thomas, and Chris Wright-Thomas.