

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
APRIL 5, 2020
PALM SUNDAY / COMMUNION

PRELUDE/MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

"Hosanna to the King!"

Cheryl Mayhew, organist
John M. Easley

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

L: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter, and give thanks to the Lord.

P: We will give You thanks, for You have answered us; You have become our salvation.

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

P: This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING HYMN *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"*

Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the lovely 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 victory palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state, nor corned 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we love a parade. We are very happy to see banners waving and hear people shouting their praises. Our hearts thrill to the spectacle. But we fail to see the sadness on the face of the Savior; our shouts block out his sorrow. He comes to us as King, and we expect that royal treatment will follow. We do not and cannot believe that in a few days we will be among those who will turn our backs and run from his presence. How fickle we are, O Lord. Yet you continually forgive us and call us to turn our lives around--to see the needs of others, to reach out in trust and faith, to be willing to witness to your good news of saving love. Heal our hearts and give us courage for the days ahead; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

The Lord is God. The Lord brings light to those in darkness, forgiveness to those who truly confess, and pardon to all who seek to follow Jesus. Rejoice that the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever and ever. In the name of Jesus the Christ, receive the love that never dies and never fails.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"How Beautiful"

Chancel Choir

HYMN OF PREPARATION *"We Will Glorify"*

We will glorify the King of kings; We will glorify the Lamb. We will glorify the Lord of lords, Who is the great I AM.

Hallelujah to the King of kings; Hallelujah to the Lamb. Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, Who is the great I AM.

MESSAGE

"Spiritual Intimacy in Days of Social Distancing"

John 12:12-19

Pastor Eric Gale

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

"Hosanna Rock"

Joyful Noise

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

-Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
AMEN.

-Prayer of Thanksgiving

-Serving of the Elements

-The Lord's Prayer

CLOSING HYMN *"All Glory, Laud and Honor"*

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 psalms before thee went; our prayer and praise 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]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Palm Sunday Procession"

Roger C. Wilson

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Friends of Jennie Auble, John & Joey, she is in hospice care and he hasn't been able to see her. Pray for comfort for both of them.

Judy Bunch, recuperating at Home.

Medical Professionals, who are exposing themselves to take care of those in need.

Noblesville Community, as we Practice Social Distancing

SCRIPTURE

John 12:12-19 (NIV)

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

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

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

SERMON OUTLINE

In these days of social distancing, how will we remain close to each other, and especially to God? Let's discover a few insights from the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as he began the last week of his earthly life.

I. The reactions of the _____!

A. Estimates are the over _____ people were gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast.

B. Their false concepts of Jesus:

- C _____
- P _____
- I _____ L _____

C. They failed to see the _____ concerns of Christ

II. The reactions of the _____!

III. The reactions of the religious _____!

Everyone wants something from Jesus:

- The crowds got what they wanted by being _____!
- The Pharisees got what they wanted by _____ it and putting Jesus in a _____ trap!
- The disciples got what they wanted by being _____.