



HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PALM & PASSION SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 2024

10:30 A.M. SERVICE



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, by Hippolyte Flandrin c. 1842

Our service begins with a procession of the palms to recall the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The palms we wave reflect the fragility of the celebration since a mere five days later the crowd's adulation turns to hatred. In Philippians, we read Paul's account of Jesus' ministry. Paul sums up the humiliation and the glory of Jesus that we prepare to honor this week. The gospel narrative is a retelling of the passion of Christ from the gospel Mark.

PALM SUNDAY GREENERY

The palms adoring our sanctuary today are given to the glory of God:

In memory of Paulette Curry given by Lindsay, Polly, and Mary Elizabeth

In honor of Don and Kelley Neal given by Mary Elizabeth, Lindsay, and Polly

Given by Joy McPherson and Mark Chambers

Given by Dan and Nancy Hill

Given by Ashley Limon

Given by Cinda York

During the season of Lent, the crosses carried in our processions and on the altar are draped in purple, the color of repentance and preparation. The crosses will remain draped from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, the cloth will change to red, and will remain through Maundy Thursday in preparation for Jesus's crucifixion. On Good Friday, the crosses will be draped in black, symbolizing Jesus' earthly death. On Easter Sunday, the crosses will be uncovered or draped in white, in celebration of the resurrection. Lent, Passion, and Easter are the only times the crosses are draped in the liturgical year. This reminds us of the redemptive purpose of Jesus' suffering (purple), crucifixion (red), death (black), and resurrection (white), which these liturgical seasons commemorate. The rest of the year the cross is uncovered to assure us that Jesus is risen.

ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHING – THE REVEREND MIKAH HUDSON
LITURGISTS – REGGIE HOLDER, LESLIE WILLIAMS
CHOIRMASTER AND ORGANIST – RICHARD PHILLIPS
VERGERS – BRIAN BELLENGER

***Congregation please stand. Words in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.**

Serving for Altar Guild: Nancy Hill, Donna Sibley • *Serving as Ushers:* Todd Edmondson, Kirk Smith
Serving as Lay Reader: Laura Williams • *Serving as Communion Stewards:* Caroline Caldwell, Warren Laird
Serving as Acolytes: Eleanor Hudson, Emmalynne Hudson, Miriam Hudson

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on Valet will ich dir geben
All Glory, Laud and Honor | Opus 51, No. 2

Alexandr  Guilman (1837-1911)

The service begins on the front lawn.

***THE OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Hosanna to the Son of David! **Hosanna in the highest!***
*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest!***

***THE GOSPEL OF THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.”

***THANKSGIVING OVER THE PALMS**

*The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***
*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.***

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

The congregation is invited to process into the Sanctuary during the singing of the hymn.

- REFRAIN: All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
1. Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One. REFRAIN
 2. The company of angels are praising thee on high,
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. REFRAIN
 3. The people of the Hebrews with psalms before thee went;
Our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present. REFRAIN
 4. To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. REFRAIN
 5. Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. REFRAIN

CHORAL INTROIT

He Comes!

Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

The Children's Choir | Mary Elizabeth Neal, Director

REFRAIN: He comes! He comes! He comes in the name of the Lord, our God!
He comes! He comes! He comes in the name of the Lord!

Prepare his way this holy day and thankful be! The chosen one, God's only Son, O blessed is he! REFRAIN

Wave the palms of welcome, he is drawing near! Greet him with hosannas, loud and clear! REFRAIN

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: God of all-redeeming grace, in your great love you gave your only Son to die for the sins of the whole world. Help us by your Holy Spirit to worship you with reverence, and to enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you bring us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALTER

Psalm 118:19-26

Anglican Chant: Samuel Wesley (1810-1837)

The Choir

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

²⁰"This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter."

²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

²²The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! Lord, send us now success.

²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

May these words reveal Christ to us. **Thanks be to God.**

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

*SEQUENCE HYMN 285

To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord

KINGSFOLD

Verse 1

Organ Improvisation: Noel Rawsthorne

**The people sit after the hymn and remain seated for the reading of first part of the Passion.
The reader will direct the congregation when to stand for the conclusion of the lesson.**

GOSPEL LESSON

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Lesson

Mark 15:1-39

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mikah Hudson

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Musical Communion Setting: Elise Eslinger (b. 1943)

*INVITATION, CONFESSION, AND PARDON

God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The communion table is open to all who are in love with God and their neighbor and seek forgiveness and healing in this broken world. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And also with you.

GREETINGS AND PARISH NOTICES

CELEBRATION OF ORGAN RENOVATION AND REDEDICATION

We present this pipe organ to be rededicated to the glory of Almighty God and for service in this congregation.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness at night,

To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Let us pray: O Lord, before whose throne trumpets sound, and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb: Accept the re-dedication of this organ for worship in your temple, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hosanna to the Son of David

The Choir

Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Text, Matthew 21:9

*DOXOLOGY 95

OLD 100th

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain!

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A - men, A - men, A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore gracious Lord, so to receive the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Agnus Dei The Choir

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.*

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Reflecting our conviction that God's grace is for all people, everyone is invited to the Lord's table. Please come forward as directed by the ushers to receive the sacrament. Holy Communion will be served by intinction; clergy will dip the bread into the cup and place in congregants' hands. Congregants are welcome to kneel at the chancel rail for prayer before returning to their seats.

COMMUNION MOTET

Very Bread The Choir

*Very bread, Good Shepherd, tend us; Jesus, with thy love befriend us;
Thou refresh us, thou defend us, thine eternal goodness send us, in the land of life to see:
Thou who all things canst and knowest, who on earth such food bestowest,
Grant us with thy saints, though lowest, where the heavenly feast thou showest, fellow heirs and guests to be.*

Randolph Currie (b.1945)

Text, St. Thomas Aquinas from Lauda Sion

COMMUNION HYMN 624

Bread of the World The Choir and Congregation

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gates of glory. May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 286

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Verse 1

PASSION CHORALE

*THE BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hosanna! The Choir

Ralph L. Grosvenor (1924-1979)

After the retiring procession of clergy and choir, all may leave in silence.



WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS!

ALL ARE WELCOME



A Reconciling Congregation with the Reconciling Ministries Network – rmnetwork.org

Highlands United Methodist Church is a community of disciples of Christ; a beacon of hope, inviting all to become new persons in Christ to be sent into the world to share the Gospel and to serve our neighbors; and a sanctuary for those in need of God's love and grace.

Highlands United Methodist Church affirms that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. We invite all to worship, wonder, and discover God's grace as we aspire to create a safe space for all to participate fully in the life of this community of faith. We are called to shine as a beacon of hope, grace, belonging, and respect for all people. Regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, family, financial status, nationality, physical or mental ability, past or future, there is room for you at Highlands.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The message of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus, Paul, and the early church was always a message of welcome and inclusion for all. The image of God's kingdom is of something small and insignificant growing into something larger and of great significance. The oppressed, the alien, and the outcast were all welcomed, included, and cared for. In this sense, our faith is built upon the idea of gracious hospitality. Followers of Jesus are not about walls of exclusion but bridges of grace and acceptance. Ours is a faith of invitation, for all to come to know Jesus as the living Christ who overcomes all brokenness, sin, and even death, offering a way to make all things new. This invitation extends to you. If you desire to explore what this means for you, please speak to a member of the clergy after the service or sometime this week. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you.

OFFERING

Cash or Check Giving:

- Giving envelopes are available in the pew racks.
Checks may be made payable to HUMC.

Electronic Giving:

- Text GIVE to 205-900-3040. A link will be provided for a simple, quick way to give with one click.
- Visit www.highlandsumc.net/giving to give using a debit card, credit card, or bank account.

Sustainable Giving:

- To set up automatic monthly bank drafts, contact financial manager Tyra Johnson-Pirtle at finance@highlandsumc.net.



SCAN THE CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING AT HIGHLANDS!

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