



**Palm Sunday**  
**April 2, 2023, 11:15 am**  
 +Stand as you are able



## Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Lighting of the Christ Candle**  
**Centering Music**

### +Litany for Palm Sunday *(adapted)*

Liturgist: Where is he going?

**Right Side: Isn't he from Nazareth?**

*Left Side: Can anything good come from Nazareth?*

**RS: Is he headed to Jerusalem?**

*LS: Do you think Jerusalem is safe?*

**RS: Does he know that Pilate is here?**

Liturgist: Where is he going?

*LS: Does he know the city is dangerous?*

**RS: Does he see the Pharisees watching?**

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

**RS: Could this be the Messiah?**

Liturgist: Where is he going?

*LS: The crowds are singing, "Hosanna!"*

**RS: Should I lay down my cloak?**

*LS: Is this the beginning of the end?*

**RS: Should we follow?**

*LS: Should we watch?*

**RS: Should we sing, "Hosanna"?"**

*LS: Stay awake!*

**RS: He's on the move.**

Liturgist: Where is he going?

*LS: Listen.*

Liturgist: Where is he going?

**RS: Watch.**

Liturgist: Where is he going?

*LS: Stay close.*

Liturgist: Where is he going?

**RS: Sing, "Hosanna."**

All voices: Hosanna! Amen..\*

**+Hymn** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #197*

### Call to Confession

For today's prayer of confession we are going to read the Palm Sunday story together. As we read

through the story, we will pause to admit the places where we so often and so easily could change the narrative. So read with me, trusting that no matter what we do or don't do, this story ends with love.

Let us pray:\*

## Prayer of Confession

*Featuring Matthew 21:1-11, NIV.*

L: As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

**P: God, forgive us for the times when we do not trust your word and do not follow where you lead. We long to be the ones who can go into the village ahead of you. Forgive us when we play it safe.**

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

"Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

**P: 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.**

L: The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

**P: 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.**

L: The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

**P: Son of David, give us the conviction to shout your name from the rooftop. Give us the wisdom to sing, "Hosanna!"**

L: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

**Amen..\***

## Assurance of Pardon

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.**

**Response of Praise**     *Great are You, Lord (Great is the Lord) #614*

**Anthem**

## Hearing the Word

### 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.\*

Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This* #215

### Sermon

## Responding to the Word

### 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

### Offering Prayer

Giver of all good gifts, accept our offerings of money, time and talents that we give in response to your generosity to us. Guide us in the way we share our resources and in the way we use the offerings, for the benefit of our community and the world. Amen.

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Invitation to the Table

Friends, if your seeking has led you here, if your weary heart followed breadcrumbs all the way to this sanctuary, then I have good news: you do not have to seek anymore.

This table is God's Table. So if you came here looking for justice, then rest in the comfort that all will be fed here. If you came seeking beauty, then let your spirit marvel at the beauty of a community coming together. If you came seeking a brush with the Divine, then know that God is present in this ordinary meal. So kick off your walking shoes. Let your weary heart stop the search. We are standing on holy ground. This is God's Table. All are invited. Come.

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

Holy God, you made the world to hum in harmony; you listened and you called it good. In time we broke off from singing the song and went our own way, but you called us back and when the time was right you came in flesh and blood to live as one of us.

In Christ, dividing walls are broken down— no Jew or Greek, male and female, slave or free. You are there on every spectrum, in every color, at every table.

By your Spirit, make us one. By your Spirit, make us whole. By your Spirit, make this bread and wine your body and blood, that we may know communion with you and with each other. Take our hearts, our lives, our hands; mold us, change us, and send us out, that we may be your body in the world you so love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. Hear us now as we pray Christ's prayer together:\*\* ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

**Words of Institution**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer after Communion**

God of manna and mustard seeds, we came to this Table hungry and we leave feeling full— full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be.

For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table, but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be: in a meal where all are welcomed and all are fed. Is there anything holier than that? So thank you for nourishing our curiosity alongside our spirit and our conviction. May we always seek you the way you seek after us. With grateful hearts we pray, amen.\*

## **Taking the Word into the World**

**+Song** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* 582 (both verses)

**+Charge and Benediction**

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful

Seek the faithful.

Seek God in each of us.

As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. Amen.\*

\*Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

\*\*Prayers from the Book of Common Worship, PCUSA, Kindle Edition.

**Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#**

**Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live**

# COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 2, 2023

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### Focal Scriptures

Maundy Thursday:

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Easter Sunday:

John 20:1-18

### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy

Ruth Roeber

The McDermott family

Johanna Willis

The Kleier family

Jean Jennings' family

Emilee Walden

Kelly Montana

Lynda Jaeger

Ron Carlin

Ella Grace Marksberry

### Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

### Maundy Thursday

Join us Thursday, April 6 at 5:30 pm for our Maundy Thursday service.

### Easter Service

Easter Sunday is April 9. We'll be gathering for a light breakfast at 10:15 am before worship begins at 11:15 am. All are welcome!

### Lenten Study

We will be having a Lenten study before worship on Sundays at 10:15 am, using materials from our Lenten Series, "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith." Coffee and snacks may be shared. Contact Rev. Sharon for more information.

### Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet on the welcome table. Thank you!

### "One Great Hour of Sharing" Special Offering

The "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering will be collected until Sunday, April 9. This offering supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

### Save the Date: CLASP Carrabba's Spring FUNd- Raisier

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25-26, Carrabba's restaurant at the Crestview Hills Town Center will sponsor a FUNd-raiser on behalf of CLASP. For every person who brings a CLASP coupon to the restaurant that day, Carrabba's will donate 20% of the purchase price to CLASP. Both dine-in and carryout meals will qualify for a donation. Coupons will be available shortly in the bulletin, and on the Community of Faith website and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cofnky>).