

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Palm Sunday
Online Worship for April 5, 2020

This service is one of two options during the Coronavirus time of physical distancing in which worship is happening only online. At 10:45 a.m. on Sundays we will livestream through ZOOM an informal conversational time of worship like our First Light Worship. You can find the link to that on our website fpcboise.org or Facebook page [facebook.com/fpcboise](https://www.facebook.com/fpcboise) .

For this service you have the printed bulletin resource to walk you through worship with accompanying YouTube links for pre-recorded video content. We are glad you are “here” with us! Feel free to give us a shout-out to tell us you worshiped by emailing Pastor Andrew at andrew@fpcboise.org and “signing in” for worship.

Prelude: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* **by J. Wayne Kerr**

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/2GJ4ldWOfD4>

Welcome

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Video link here: <https://youtu.be/JsT0WYZ5kgE>

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 118)

We give thanks to you, O God, for you are good;
your steadfast love endures forever!
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give God thanks.
Let us worship God.

***Hymn 196** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/R-BmbS-qJLs>

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

to Refrain
 who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

Prayer of Confession

O God of love, who sent Jesus among us, hear our confession and forgive our sin. When we invoke Christ's name for selfish reasons, have mercy upon us. When our faith is convenient and does not lead to commitment, surround us with grace, that we may repent. We are prone to call on you to satisfy our needs; we practice obedience without cost to our comfort. Forgive our leisurely approach to your sacrifice for us as Christ intercedes on our behalf. Lord, have mercy on us... (Silence) Forgive us, O God, and move us to trust, that we may boldly live your grace and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Friends, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. But to say we are sinners goes too far. Our identity rests not in our brokenness but in God's love. Know that, whatever you believe separates you from God, God's love is more than enough to bridge the gap. Jesus died for you, rose for you, lives and reigns in power for you. Jesus is praying for you. The good news of all that is? We are forgiven. You are forgiven. So be at peace.

Time for Children/Celebration Chapel

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/WDk8T5oPW3I>

Anthem *The Simplest and the Best* **arr. Alfred V. Fedak**

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/pHZcxN02mXw>

Prayer and Scripture reading

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/0DLM5chfbR4>

Prayer for Illumination

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day through the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may enter into the coming Holy Week with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Listen to the Word: Psalms 118 and Mark 11:1-11

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-26

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

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!

^oBlessed 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Reflection on the Word and Life: “The Start of Something Completely Different”

Video link here: <https://youtu.be/JQPQ0djZdCE>

Typically, we read this as somewhat clumsy dialogue—a prophet Jesus commands that he needs a colt, and the people acquiesce to the demand out of some spiritualized recognition that they are being drafted into the story of God. But recently I heard a sermon from Union Seminary President Brian Blount that changed my perspective on this forever. He said that our typical reading is a very western European mindset...but any from marginalized communities who have been revolutionaries, who have been activists, who have been underground subversives—they see a different truth in this story. They see that the “powers that be” would never let Jesus create a revolutionary parade. They would silence him...if they knew the plan. So, what we get in the Palm Sunday story is a Jesus who has laid the groundwork for this “triumphant entry” and the pageantry of revolution with secret agent/underground railroad work. This dialogue is what we call coded talk. Jesus has prepared the colt; he has his own people watching over it: and they know the code words. “The Lord needs it” to release the colt to “their people.” The whole thing is staged ahead of time...by the subversive revolutionaries of a different way: a God way of life that the Roman Empire and Temple Elites would stamp out if they could. So our stilted dialogue is much like a spy who knows the ciphers and codes to check out if the person they are talking to is their asset, and its safe to proceed: I say: “its sunny in the evening,” and if they say “better take your umbrella anyway” I know it’s not safe, but if they say “it’s a good thing I don’t need my umbrella” then it’s safe to proceed...or some seemingly innocent such dialog as that.

Jesus is setting about to stage his final week of confronting the powers that be, of speaking for justice, and of disabusing the powerful to give it back to the people. And Jesus has organized this entry to Jerusalem so that by the time the Romans and the Temple Elites—who have been trying to stop him—realize that he is in town preaching it will be too late to silence anyone. The stones themselves are singing!

The call of Palm Sunday is not simply about Jesus walking in to his sacrificial death. It is a call for us to be similarly revolutionary in our work: seeking to challenge the power of injustice, working to bring down oppressive systems, and following in the way of Jesus. In this way, joy doesn’t just come to the wealthy and the powerful; on that day, in that morning, joy comes to all.

***Affirmation of Faith** (adapted from the Brief Statement of Faith)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***Doxology** (Tune: Old Hundredth, Hymn 607)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayers of the Community

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/9fj4KEWr80w>

The Lord's Prayer (traditional)

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 345 In an Age of Twisted Values**

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/fRTGdjfYUiw>

In an Age of Twisted Values 345

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G) (D)
Fm Cm Fm E^b A^b E^b



1 In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the
2 We have built dis - crim - i - na - tion on our prej - u -
3 When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are
4 We who hear your word so of - ten choose so rare - ly

(Em) (A) (B7) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G)
Fm B^b C7 Fm Cm Fm E^b A^b



truth we need. In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have
dice and fear. Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we
full of strife, when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they
to o - bey. Turn us from our will - ful wan - dering; give us

(Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (C) (G)
B^bm Fm Cm Fm D^b A^b



jus - ti - fied our greed. By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions
hold re - sent - ments dear. For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed
lose their way in life, when we fail to give the a - ged
truth to light our way. In the pow - er of your Spir - it

(D) (Am) (Em) (B7) (Em) (Bm)
E^b B^bm Fm C7 Fm Cm



we have robbed the poor and weak. Hear our cry and
by the walls of class and race, hear our cry and
all the care we know they need, hear our cry and
come to cleanse us, make us new; hear our cry and

(Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm E^b A^b B^bm Fm Cm Fm



heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.
heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and grace.
heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.
heal our na - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

One of the ways Christians can show firm allegiance to the country where they live and express care for its well-being is to ensure that they are mindful of the broad range of human needs within that society. This hymn is a strong reminder of the values that need such attention.

***Charge and Benediction**

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/xign21Y3Hiw>

Postlude

Tocatta

by Gordon Young

Video Link here: <https://youtu.be/7WDT4jfsQqU>

Leading Worship

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kukla

Ryan Dye, Minister of Music

Vocalists: Veronica Blake, Eric Noyce, Heather Dye