

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

10:30 a.m. Live Stream Service



GATHER

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

For Meditation before Worship *(for personal use before worship)*

Following Jesus does not mean clinging to an idea of holding on to a principle.

It is walking the path of one who gave his life for his friends and called his followers to do the same.

Henri Nouwen

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Many years ago, people saw Jesus and asked, Who is this?

Jesus is the alpha and omega, our teacher and healer.

Who is this?

Jesus is our path in the wilderness, our Source of love.

As they laid down their coats,

We lay down our hearts.

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Prelude

The Walk to Jerusalem

J.S. Bach

Prayer for Sunday Morning

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Jesus, when you rode into Jerusalem
the people waved palms and shouted Hosanna!
and cried out for you to be their leader.

**Grant that when the shouting dies down and the crowd thins out
we may still walk beside you, even to the cross. Amen.**

*** Hymn 197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
(see next page)

Ellacombe

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Maker of all:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, servant of the poor:

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life:

Have mercy on us.

**O Christ who shares our suffering,
the way of the cross is a hard road.**

It is draining, demanding and dangerous.

**You ask us to stay by your side as you walk toward the cross,
but weariness and fear overtake us.**

**Like the first disciples we are quick
to betray you, to deny you, to abandon you.**

Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead.

**Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of the world
and to respond with compassion.**

**As the darkness gathers,
renew our faith, fill us with hope,
and startle us with your grace.**

(We take time for quiet, personal prayer...)

Assurance of Grace

*** Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*** Response of Praise** *(singing together)*

Let There Be Love and Understanding

Let there be love and understanding among us,
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from the storm.

Words of Welcome

HEAR

Anthem

Hosanna in the Highest

Petker

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
- ² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a]
- ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.^[b]
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.^[c]
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
- ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Prayer and The 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.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:1-17

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "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."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ 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!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

¹² Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer';
but you are making it a den of robbers."

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children

crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry ¹⁶ and said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ‘Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?’”

¹⁷ He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us:

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

A Reckoning

Sue Lowcock Harris

(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)*

Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayer of Gratitude and Concern

Offering

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts.

We open them to God and one another.

Let us give thanks to the living God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[The pastors continue to lead us in prayer.

*We gather up all our prayers, spoken and unspoken,
as we pray together:]*

God in heaven, your name is to be honored.

**May your new community of hope be realized
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today the essentials of life.

Release us from wrongdoing

as we also release those who wrong us.

Do not test us beyond our enduring;

save us from all that is evil.

**For you embrace justice, love and peace,
now and to the end of time. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Communion of the People

*We share the bread and the cup around the table
in our homes, and in the Sanctuary.*

Music at Communion

Prayer after Communion

SEND AND BLESS

* **Hymn 223**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

(see next page)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1707
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824

HAMBURG
 LM
 (alternate tune: ROCKINGHAM, 224)

* **Closing Responses**

Choose this day whom you will serve

We will serve the living God.

The road is narrow that leads to life;

We will walk the way of Christ.

We offer more than words, O God;

We offer you our lives.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* **Benediction**

Discipleship Time – This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Grab a second cup of coffee and stick around online as we talk about how we are staying connected and being the church together in these days of social distancing.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.

First Church Cares

To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization; to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange homebound Communion, contact Pastor Morton or Pastor Sue.

Program Staff Cell Phone Numbers

Morton Harris, Co-Pastor, 443-824-3768
Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor, 443-824-4305
Virginia Callegary, Christian Educator, 410-292-3400

ZOOM Office Hours for Staff

Virginia, Morton and Sue will be having ZOOM office hours while we're practicing social distancing. Stop in and say hi! Click here www.firstpreshc.org/online-office-hours.

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. – Virginia

Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Sue

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – Morton

Links to Worship Services and First Day!

To go to the Facebook Live streaming service, go here: [Livestream Service](#)

To join by YouTube livestream, go here: [YouTube Livestream](#)

To find First Day!, go here: [Sunday Worship Materials](#)



The First Presbyterian Church

of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshc.org

Ministers: All members of the congregation



Dr. O. Morton Harris, Jr., Co-Pastor
Dr. Sue Lowcock Harris, Co-Pastor
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
Caroline Smith, Church Administrator
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

mharris@firstpreshc.org
sharris@firstpreshc.org
vcallegary@firstpreshc.org
fpcadmin@firstpreshc.org
bookkeeper@firstpreshc.org
sexton@firstpreshc.org
GodlyPlay@firstpreshc.org

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✦ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✦

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115