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Welcome to Our Celebration of Worship!

To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!

**Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.*

*(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items in bold.**)*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Improvisation

K. Frieze

Please use the prelude to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God together.

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM Matthew 21:1-11

*HYMN (See Insert)

All Glory Laud and Honor

The congregation is invited to celebrate the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem by waving their palms high in the air. The Kids and Youth Choirs, along with the Sanctuary Choir, will join together in processing into the sanctuary.

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus comes as Lord and King; not riding a horse of power,
but a donkey of humility.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

The people line the streets with joy; laying down their garments and praising God.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

If the people keep quiet – then or today –
even the stones will cry out in joyful praise.

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

Joining with the choirs of God's faithful children,
let us joyfully worship God together.

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

INTROIT

Antiphonal Hosanna

G. Alan Smith

Kids, Youth, and Sanctuary Choirs

INVITATION TO PRAYER

RESPONSIVE PRAYER ON THE PASSION OF OUR CHRIST

Our Redeemer suffered death, was buried, and rose again for our sake.

With love, let us adore him, aware of our needs.

Christ our teacher, for us you were obedient, even unto death;

Teach us to obey God's will in all things.

Christ, our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed
the power of sin, evil, and death;

Enable us to die with you and to rise with you in glory.

Christ, our strength, you were despised and humiliated as a condemned criminal;

Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

Christ, our salvation, you gave your life out of your unconditional love for us;

**Help us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength,
and our neighbors as ourselves.**

Christ, our Savior, on the cross you embraced
all of time with your outstretched arms;

Gather your children, scattered in all places, into your eternal kingdom.

Jesus, Lamb of God; bearer of our sins;

Have gracious mercy upon us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world; author of our salvation;

Grant us your everlasting peace.

Please take a moment of silence for personal prayer and reflection . . .

Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to life eternal through the one who was crucified, died, and buried; yet rose again for us. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior, as together God's people say ... **amen.**

HYMN 551 (Kyrie Eleison)

Lord, Have Mercy

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

DECLARATION OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Leader: In everlasting love, God redeems us and sets us free.

**People: God forgives us ... frees us ... and gives us peace.
To God we are ever thankful. Amen.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Hymn 518, verses 1 and 3)

Your Only Son

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.

We Listen for God's Word

ANTHEM

Riding on the Road to Jerusalem

Frombach & Brooke

Claves: Jake Amend, Sarah Thatcher

Shaker: Kevin Gordon

Tambourine: Alexa Schirripa

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Preschool through 6th grade children are invited to come to the front pews.

Congregational Invitation: *(sung twice)*

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.**

Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:

This is where children belong.

(Church school is available for children preschool through 8th grade.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Old Testament, p. 565 / P. 694

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“Faces”

*HYMN 199

Filled with Excitement

We Respond in Word and Deed

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the One triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

OFFERING OF OUR TIME AND TALENT

INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Hosanna! Hosanna!

arr. T. Mayfield

Handbells: Jake Amend, Kevin Gordon, Nolan Means, Alexa Schirripa

When directed, the congregation is invited to join the choirs in singing the words on the back page of today's bulletin.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 606)

Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

The congregation is invited to share our prayer requests with one another.

*If you would like to share a prayer request, please raise your hand
and the Pastor will invite you to share your need for prayer.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

INVITATION TO HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

*HYMN (See Insert)

We Sang Our Glad Hosannas

*Throughout Jerusalem, joyful shouts of "Hosanna!"
are becoming angry cries of "Crucify Him!"*

The tide is turning against the Messiah.

Soon Jesus will be betrayed ... arrested ... crucified ... and buried.

*But first ... he will gather with his disciples to show
them the true meaning of servanthood.*

*Our Lord and Savior will wash their feet ...
break the bread ... pour the cup ... and share a meal.*

There is no benediction for today's Palm Sunday worship because our service of worship does not end today, but continues on Maundy Thursday (April 18th) at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Diane Starost, Director of Youth Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and honor of God by the Old First Deacons in joyful celebration of our congregation and the many ways we share of joining together in ministry to love and serve God.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Continue to pray for those who remain on our prayer list:

Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Pat and Joan Lobasso, James Schubauer, Don Thompson, Diane Walker, Grace Youngquist.

Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.

If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact Pastor Means.

Matthew 21:1-11

New Testament, p. 23 / P. 27

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethpage, 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Old Testament, p. 565 / P. 694

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.

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.

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.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.