



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
We Celebrate Palm Sunday

CCLI License # 2839486

April 2, 2023

10:30am

PRELUDE *3 Songs from Noels*

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

“Hosanna in the Highest”

1. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Lord, we lift up your name with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, O Lord, my God. Hosanna in the highest.

2. Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Lord, we lift up your name with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, O Lord, my God. Glory to the King of kings!

3. Repeat verse 1

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

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

Hosanna in the highest!

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy God, you reveal the truth about your people and the ways of our world in the suffering of the Son and his steadfast love. Show us again the image of humility you desire for us, and teach us obedience, so that self-emptying may be our pathway, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #197**

ELLACOMBE

CALL TO CONFESSION

One day, we are crying to God, "save us," the next we are turning our backs on God and walking away. Despite our fickle nature, God is steadfast in loving us and constant in forgiving us. Let us confess to our God, as we pray,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With joy in our hearts, we welcome your servant, O God, only to reject him when he picks up a cross instead of a crown. Like cloaks laid on the ground before Jesus, we pick up our faith, dust it off and put it back in the closet until we need it. We can be as stubborn and rebellious as the city which cheers your name.

Save us, Redeeming God, save us! May we lay our doubts, our fears, our worries, our weariness at your feet, trusting and believing that you will forgive what is sinful, make whole our brokenness, and welcome us as sisters and brothers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is Kept

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hosanna to David's Son! Blessed is the One who comes in God's name, not to judge us, but to save us.

**We humble ourselves in gratitude to God, and in service to others, even as Christ did.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;

the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²²**The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³This is the Lord's doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not

sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Generous Giving: Extravagant Gifts"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Ride On, Ride On, In Majesty" #198

ST. DROSTANE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let our hosannas to the one who brings liberation take form in our tithes and offering.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: Lord of All Good (vs. 1) #711

TOULON

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We could triumphantly claim that you came just for us, Holy One, but your gifts are poured out for all the broken, all the wandering, all the struggling. So, may we be just like you, pouring out our lives and our treasures, so all might be blessed through you, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord of parades be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, open your hearts to the One who comes with hope.

We would receive the joy and grace the prophet from Nazareth brings us.

Give thanks to God, for God's love endures forever!

God is our God, the One who comes to make us whole.

Joy is indeed the highest praise... ..singing with all creation to your glory:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Opener of our ears.

All creation proclaims, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who opens the gates of righteousness.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, God our Creator... ..we proclaim the One who is the Bread of Life:

Christ died, emptying his life for us;

Christ was raised, defeating our old adversaries sin and death;

Christ will come, to fulfill what has been promised.

Here, at this Table, we would receive the gifts... ..God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

***HYMN: "I Danced in the Morning" #157**

LORD OF THE DANCE

CHARGE

The One wounded by the nails in our hearts, sends us forth,
to bring healing with God's love.

The One who continues on the journey invites us to follow,
cradling the broken hearts of the world as we go.

The One whose Spirit is in the Kingdom Bearer fills us with hope,
if we but trust in the promises of this day.

BENEDICTION "Prince of Denmark's March"

Jeremiah Clarke

Portions of the liturgy © Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word; cover art by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com

We would like to thank Scott Chaffee for sharing his gifts with us today.

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

- Prayers for Craig Erisman who is in Strong Memorial Hospital awaiting a heart transplant.
- Prayers for healing for Bob Eshelman.
- Prayers for healing for Shirley Hagle's sister's great, great granddaughter in Texas who was born one week ago with breathing problems.
- Prayers for healing for Mike Donovan.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Kaley who was killed in a car accident and for the driver of the other vehicle. Prayers for her 4 year- old son, Wyatt, who survived the accident. She is a friend of Laura Marohn's brother.
- Prayers for healing for Liam who has leukemia.
- Prayers for the congregation of Marilee's brother and sister-in-law's church (Marion Aldersgate Church in Illinois), currently in discernment for a way forward.
- Prayers for healing for Lori, friend of Sue Schurr, who is out of the hospital and recuperating at home.
- Prayers for Derick Blake for healing.
- Prayers for continued healing for Marlene Tyrrell.
- Prayers for continued healing for Shirley Hagle.
- Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria displaced by the earthquakes, and for those first responders working with them.
- Prayers for peace and refuge for Ukraine, and for all refugees.

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages (Classrooms)

10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, April 3

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, April 4

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

1:00pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, April 5

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

5:30pm Maundy Thursday Supper Church

Saturday, April 8

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday

9:00am Easter Sunrise Breakfast

10:30 am Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)



Palm

Sunday

Hosanna to our King!