

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2015

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

\* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Palm Sunday Majesty* Arr. Sharon Elery Rogers  
Ridge Ringers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

LENTEN CANDLE READING Kristy Mestdagh and Sean Mestdagh  
*(Sing as readers walk to the front)*  
**Lord, who throughout these forty days For us didst fast and pray. Tune: No. 81**  
**Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.**

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder  
Leader: Blessed is Jesus, who comes in God's name.  
**People: Hosanna! The realm of God comes near.nant with you.**  
Leader: Bless are all who come in God's name.  
**People: Hosanna! The realm of God comes near.**  
Leader: Blessed are you, when you come in God's name.  
**People: Hosanna! The realm of God comes near.**

\* HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* No. 88  
(Choir and Children process with palms)

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

**Eternal God:**

**in Jesus Christ you entered Jerusalem in self-giving love,  
We confess that we have not hailed you with shouts of joy  
or gone before you in the world with praise.**

**For brief faith that fades in trouble,  
for enthusiasms that fizzle out,  
for hopes we parade but do not pursue,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, O God,  
and give us such trust in your power that in every city,  
we may live for justice and tell your loving-kindness;  
for the sake of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Laura Sugg

Leader: Friends, believe the good news:  
in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**People: In the strength of that forgiveness may we  
more clearly see the truth, more bravely face the world,  
more lovingly serve our neighbor,  
more joyfully follow Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**HEARING THE WORD**

PSALTER READING Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Pgs. 575-576

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *The Palms* Jean Baptiste Faure

GOSPEL READING John 12:12-16 Pg. 100-101

TIME FOR CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*

**This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.  
Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.**

SERMON *Procession and Recession* Laura Sugg

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)

**"In both his majesty and lowliness**

**Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God with us.**

**Religious leaders hated Jesus because he criticized their hypocrisy  
and reproved their neglect of justice and mercy.**

**They charged him with blasphemy and sedition  
when he claimed to speak and act with God's authority.**

**One of Jesus' followers betrayed him.**

**Others abandoned and denied him  
because they were afraid to stand with him.**

**He was sentenced, mocked, beaten, and crucified as a common criminal.**

**We confess that in the execution of Jesus  
the sin of the human race reached its depths.**

**In the presence of Jesus, who lived out what God wants us all to be,  
we were threatened beyond endurance.**

**Blinded by our rebellion against our Creator,  
we killed God's Son when we met him face to face.**

**Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning.**

**He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord." Amen.**

—adapted from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

\* HYMN *What Wondrous Love is This?* No. 85

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16  
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

SONG *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* STF 2200  
(Sung several times, followed by a period of silence.  
Laura will conclude the silence by saying, "Amen.")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Lowell Mason

\* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING Tune: Hymnal No. 422

**Lord, whose love in humble service Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to your purpose Every gift which you impart.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**All: Great God;**

**We thank you for Jesus Christ, whose death brought life.**

**We praise you for the trust we have in him, for mercy undeserved,  
and for love you pour out on us and all people.**

**Give us gratitude and a great desire to serve you  
by taking up our cross and following in the way  
of Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior. Amen**

\* HYMN *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* No. 83

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 81

**Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering overpast,  
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!**

POSTLUDE *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Arr. Lani Smith

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall to enjoy light refreshments and fellowship.*



*Palm/ Passion Sunday*

*March 29, 2015*

*WPC Mission Statement*

*To worship God through faith and action,  
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,  
to be an extended family to all,  
and to serve the community  
through programs, education and prayer.*