



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH

A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

April 2, 2023

IN-PERSON & LIVE-STREAMED SERVICE

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Liturgist: Lisa Cooper Green

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (GTG #197)

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang.
Through pillared court and temple, the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

All Glory Laud and Honor (GTG #196)

Refrain

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children made sweet Hosannas ring.*

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One.

Refrain

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went.
Our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.

Refrain

To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Refrain

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!

Refrain

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

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:

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."

SONG

"He Has Made Me Glad"

TFWS #2270

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart
 I will enter his courts with praise
 I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
 I will rejoice for he has made me glad!

He has made me glad, he has made me glad
 I will rejoice for he has made me glad!
 He has made me glad, he has made me glad
 I will rejoice for he has made me glad!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greetings to the joyful, the content, the hopeful, and the cheerful.

Bring your laughter, your celebrations, and your delight to worship.

Welcome to the mournful, the anxious, the overwhelmed, and the afraid.

Bring your thoughts, your worries, your concerns, and your fears to worship.

We all come from different places, with different experiences, and with different expectations.

God alone knows our inner thoughts and looks upon us with compassion.

Come as you are. Come with all your feelings.

God will help us process and transform our feelings into faithful action.

Come as you are. Come with all your feelings.

Come, let us worship together in unity.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess we treat ourselves harshly, condemn our own mistakes, and punish ourselves when we fail.

We confess we call ourselves names, can be our own worst bullies, and look in the mirror without love for our faces.

We confess we give up on ourselves, treat ourselves with unkindness, and withhold good things from our lives.

We confess we choose the well-being of others over ourselves when we really need to rest and recover.

We confess we believe negative things others say about us and deny words spoken which bless us.

We confess we confuse confidence for arrogance and self-love for indulgence.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

For you, God, adore us. You are kind to us, forgiving us when we fail. Show each of us how we might love ourselves, not from a place of self-absorption or narcissism, but in the knowledge that you made us, and we belong to you. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN	Lenten Coin Calendar	Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
MESSAGE	Introduction to the Cantata “This Is the Day”	Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
ANTHEM	“What Wondrous Love Is This” <i>(American folk hymn; arr. Benjamin Harlan)</i>	SJU Chancel Choir

What wondrous love is this, o my soul, o my soul
What wondrous love is this
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down, sinking down
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul
God laid aside his crown for my soul

The Day of the Last Supper Matthew 26:26 – 29

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Lord’s Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to you, Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to praise you, Lord.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy Triune God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit. From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is praised among all peoples. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with your people on earth and all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full ... full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, Almighty One! Blessed are you, Jesus Christ! In the power of the Spirit you created all things, blessed them, and called them good. You called to yourself a people to make your mercy and truth known in all the world. We betrayed your calling; You were faithful. We wandered from the way; You called us to return, and led us home. And still we turned from your ways, abused your creatures, and made ourselves slaves to sin and death. At the right time you came and dwelt among us, as one of us, bringing good news to the poor, healing the sick, raising the dead, sharing table with the unrighteous, and teaching the way that leads to life. By your incarnation, life, suffering, execution and resurrection You gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery and made a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit. On the night of your betrayal, Lord Jesus, you took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to your disciples and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me"; You did the same with the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant in my blood";

Blessed Trinity, in remembrance of all you have done to save us, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we sing (proclaim) the mystery of our faith:

Christ has come among us. Christ has died.

Christ has risen. Christ abides with us.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us

Pour out your Spirit on us

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts

Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ

Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.

The Lord's Prayer...

The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

COMMUNION SONG

"One Bread, One Body"

(video; [CC])

READING

The Day of Denial

Matthew 26:30 – 35

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Peter's Denial Foretold

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

³² "But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." ³³ Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." ³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

SJU Chancel Choir

(arr. Benjamin Harlan)

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour
Turn not from his griefs away
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray

Calvary's mournful mountain climb
God's own sacrifice complete
"It is finished!" hear him cry
Learn of Jesus Christ to die

READING 3

The Day of Betrayal Matthew 26:47 – 57

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Jesus before the High Priest

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.

SONG

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

TFWS #2112

Jesus walked this lonesome valley
He had to walk it by himself
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him
He had to walk it by himself

We must walk this lonesome valley
We have to walk it by ourselves
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us
We have to walk it by ourselves

You must go and stand your trial
You have to stand it by yourself
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you
You have to stand it by yourself

READING

The Day of Desertion and Trial Mathew 26:69

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene."^[m] ⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:1 – 2, 11 – 14

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ² They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

SONG

“O Love Divine”
(arr. Benjamin Harlan)

SJU Chancel Choir

O Love divine, what hast Thou done
Immortal God had died for me
The Father's Son, eternal Son, bore all my sin
Immortal God for me hath died:
My Lord, my Love is crucified!

Behold Him, all who would pass by
The bleeding Prince of life and peace
Come sinners, see your Savior die
And say, "Was ever grief like his?"
Come, feel with me this blood applied:
My Lord, my Love is crucified!

READING

The Day of Judgement and Mockery
Matthew 27:20 – 31

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"^[1] All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood;^[k] see to it yourselves." ²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" ²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,^[1] and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

SONG

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
(arr. Benjamin Harlan)

SJU Chancel Choir

O sacred head, now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns thine only crown
How pale thou art with anguish
With sore abuse and scorn
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest friend
For this thy dying sorrow
Thy pity without end
O make me think forever
And should I fainting be
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee

The Day of Crucifixion

Matthew 27:31

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

SONG

“Were You There?”

SJU Chancel Choir

(arr. Benjamin Harlan)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Holy God, sovereign over power and pain, glorious triumph and deep disappointment, we enter this Holy Week bringing our tithes and offerings to your altar and leaving them here in the hope you will use them to make the world a more loving and compassionate place. We are reminded through the scripture that you sent two of your disciples out to make the world ready for your coming: “Go into the village . . . find the donkey . . . tell them the lord has need.” Remind us that your kingdom breaks into the world not as a spectacle for us to witness but as a parade where we are called to make a working contribution. We pray in the name of the one who comes not just for the parade, but for the cross at the end of it. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross/
The Wonderful Cross”

Congregation

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Refrain

*O the wonderful cross, o the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, o the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name*

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

Refrain

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

May the beauty of God’s creation delight you.
May the tender heart of Jesus embrace you.
May the presence of the Holy Spirit guide you.
As you go to love and serve the world.

Amen.

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

