



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

March 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Leader: Dr. Renee Mackey

Liturgist: Jen McClurg

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor Renee Mackey

OPENING SONGS

“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

“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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

During holy week, we will journey from praise to betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

We will follow Jesus each step of the way, for he is the Word who sustains us.

We wave palm branches in anticipation as we lay our love before him.

He comes not in power, but modeling humility and obedience.

OPENING PRAYER

O Christ, you entered the city as a poor man, not in style but simply, yet still you caused an uproar, and questions everywhere; you drew the expectations of a hungry crowd, and brought buried conflicts to the light. May we hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice and follow faithfully in your way of compassion and solidarity with those who are poor and excluded, wherever it may lead us. Amen.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"Filled with Excitement"

GTG #199

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.

There in the distance they begin to see,
there on a donkey comes the Savior Christ.

Refrain:

*From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise,
our triumphant song of joy:
"Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!
Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!"*

As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
to our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith.

Refrain

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

Palm Wave Celebration

Pastor Renee Mackey

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA
The Final Hours
(Music by Lee Dengler; words by Susan Naus Dengler)

SJU Chancel Choir

"As the Sun Rose in the Sky"

My Lord, what a morning!
When they nailed You to the cross.

As the sun rose in the sky;
and the birds took up their mournful cry,
in that hour, the Lord was crucified;
as the sun rose in the eastern sky.

There He hung for all to see;
dying there in shame and agony.
There He paid the price to set us free.
There He hung for all the world to see.

God's blessed Son, the holy One
for all the world, forgiveness won.
Such love He showed. Such grace bestowed.
He paid the price for sin we owed.

As the sun rose higher still,
Jesus suffered there on Calvary's hill.
The redemption of the world fulfilled,
as the sun rose ever higher still.

God's blessed Son, the holy One,
for all the world, forgiveness won.
Oh, my Lord!

"The Darkest Hours"

The darkest hours, dark as the night, now covered all the land,
as Christ, who'd come to bring us light, now met our guilt's demand.
As life ebbed from that precious form, weighed down with all our sin,
He met the world's reproach and scorn with peace from deep within.

We people who in darkness dwell
now see the light of day;
for Jesus comes, gloom to dispel,
and drives our fears away.

So even in the darkest hours,
when all may seem a loss,
we too can draw upon the power
our Lord knew on the cross.

So weep no more, and sing of One who suffered in our place;
He's aware of all we've done, and knows the trials we face.

And on that Friday, long ago
as Jesus bore the cross,
the darkest hours that we may know,
our Lord endured for us.

"Surely, This Was God's Own Son"

**Surely, this was God's own Son,
this the long-awaited One.
By His wounds we all are healed;
His sacrifice revealed:**

**surely, this was God's own Son;
this, the most beloved One;
God had sent, His love to show,
His saving grace to know.
Surely, this was God's own Son.**

**The final hour had come.
The Savior bowed His head and died.
When all had witnessed what He'd done,
it could not be denied,
surely, this was God's own Son.**

**Now we who live by faith
in One who would the grave defy.
In Him who chose to suffer death;
so gratefully, we reply, we reply,**

**surely, this was God's own Son;
this, the pure and spotless One.
See Him there on Calvary's cross,
and know He died, He died for us.
Surely this was God's own son.**

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (new version)

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

CALL TO GENEROSITY

It is our selves we must spread under Christ's feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eye only for a few brief hours. But let us clothe ourselves with Christ's grace and spread ourselves like coats under his feet as we give all we are and all we have to honor the King.

Refrain:

*He is King of kings; he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.
O He is King of kings; he is Lord of lords,
Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.*

He built his throne up in the air;
no one works like him;
and called his saints from everywhere;
no one works like him.

Refrain

He pitched his tents on Canaan ground;
no one works like him;
and broke oppressive kingdoms down;
no one works like him.

Refrain

I know that my Redeemer lives;
no one works like him;
and by his love sweet blessing gives;
no one works like him.

Refrain

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Renee Mackey

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
AccompanistWorship Resources:

Baker, J. Robert, Evelyn Kaehler and Peter Mazar. *A Lent Sourcebook II: The Forty Days*. Chicago, Liturgy Training Publ., 1900, p.179.

Burgess, Ruth and Chris Polhill. *Eggs and Ashes: Practical & Liturgical Resources for Lent and Holy Week*. Wild Goose Publ.: Iona, Scotland, 2002, p.131

Shuman, Thom M. *Where the Broken Gather: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year B*. Middletown, DE., 2014, p. 108.

