

PALM SUNDAY



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

April 5, 2020
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Link to worship videos available at: www.fpcbryan.org

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

OPENING SENTENCES AND PRAYER

adapted from Psalm 118:24-26a

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME

HYMN No. 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

¹ **Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillar 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.**

² **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 be on his bidding wait.**

³ **"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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, Wondrous God, for every gift of grace everywhere in every day you create. For every act of giving to others, for every shared opportunity of service, community, and rejoicing, for every match and candle lit when all about is darkness, for every square foot of gray shade when radiant light is overwhelming and blinding.

Where we have failed you in countless ways, in these moments of silence, we ask your forgiveness . . . and we pray with confidence that you lead us beyond guilt and surrender to new life by unwavering grace.

Hear us, also, Blessed One, praying in the days of a pervasive threat, sharing the words of Chaplain John Ehman, of Penn Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia (*Here I invite you to join me in the voicing the printed responses.*):

For all who care for the sick with enormous courage, compassion, and expertise,

...that they may be safe and feel affirmed in this most sacred work;

For all suffering in isolation, holding on through the course of illness,

...that they may find relief and energy, in body and spirit, by every means;

For families separated by physical barriers, necessary but painful,

...that the transcendent connections of caring relationships will yield for them the power of an embrace;

For all anxious in the surrounding uncertainty: waiting on tests; vigilant for any sign of illness or improvement; or wondering where may be lurking what is invisibly microscopic, or fearful of the larger disruptions in our world,

...that the path ahead will become clear and promising;

For all of us in this time of COVID-19, may we discover within us and around us what we need to press forward,

...that our struggles give way to healing and a new day, born of your eternal love.

And we pray together, with the words of Jesus,

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.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 19:33-44

Pew Bible, N. T., p. 83

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

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

See Him

MEN **You are holy; you are mighty; you are worthy, worthy of praise.**

I will follow; I will listen; I will love you all of my days.

I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy. I will love and adore him; I will bow down before him.

I will sing to and worship the King who is worthy. I will love and adore him, I will bow down before him.

You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you.

WOMEN **You are holy; you are mighty; you are worthy, worthy of praise.**

I will follow; I will listen; I will love you all of my days.

You are Lord of lords; you are King of kings; you are mighty God, Lord of everything.

You're Emmanuel; you're the great I AM; you're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb.

You're the living God; you're my saving grace; you will reign forever; you are Ancient of Days.

You are Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End. You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend.

You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

HYMN No. 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

¹**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.**

⁴**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

POSTLUDE

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Especially in this time, visit the church website, www.fpcbryan.org,
for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, updates, etc.

Our newsletter, **The Chimes**, will continue to be available online and mailed to local FPC-Bryan members with the printed bulletin and sermon to those without technology. Until further notice, it will not be mailed to its full distribution list. The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **NOON, SUNDAY, APRIL 5**, and will be distributed on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**. This newsletter will cover news from April 16-29.

STAY CONNECTED! with others in this community of faith at Church Updates—FPC-Bryan's online tool for church-related announcements, ways to serve, and current prayer needs. This online tool is "**REAL TIME**," and users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts.

Login and create your password-protected account at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>.
For more information, contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or office@fpcbryan.org.



A WARM WELCOME!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today.



WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

LITURGIST

Rev. Ted Foote

MUSICIANS

Michelle Lassiter, *pianist*
David Kipp, *Director of Music Ministries & guitarist*

COVER ART

Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem
(Getty Images)

CHANCEL FLOWERS

In loving memory of
Catherine & Joseph Wesp
by
Ashley & Michael Wesp,
and Joshua Wesp

AUDIO/VIDEO

Emily K. Béghin
Jerry Norris

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Dear FPC Friends,

As we pray, plan, and function to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 global crisis, our accustomed routines are obviously derailed. Let us continue with steadfast patience and faithfulness, depending upon God and each other, for making it through together.

Gratefully,

Ted V. Foote, Jr., Pastor

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

10:45am ONLINE WORSHIP-

To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

5:45pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Funday-DIGITAL

(Watch your inbox for details via email!)

MONDAY, APRIL 6

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

6:30pm ONLINE WORSHIP: The Last Supper-

To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

6:30pm ONLINE WORSHIP-

To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11

EASTER | RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, APRIL 12

10:45am ONLINE WORSHIP-

To view, visit www.fpcbryan.org

5:45pm Youth (GR 6-12) Sunday Funday-DIGITAL

(Watch your inbox for details via email!)

For regularly scheduled meetings/gatherings, please be in touch with your group's moderator, leader, coordinator, or facilitator to determine alternate meeting options/platforms.

NEW MEMBERS

If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote (tfoote@fpcbryan.org) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin (ebeghin@fpcbryan.org). They will be glad to visit with you.

Check out FPC-Bryan's new Children's Ministry page!

<https://www.facebook.com/FPC-Bryan-Childrens-Ministry>



THERE'S STILL TIME TO SPONSOR AN EASTER LILY. While we will not be all worshipping together in the sanctuary, Easter morning worship will be video recorded in the sanctuary. You are invited to beautify the sanctuary with lilies for this recorded worship service. The cost is \$15⁰⁰ per plant. Please write "for lilies" on your check (payable to FPC-Bryan) and mail to First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Carter Creek Parkway, Bryan, Texas 77802. You may wish to sponsor one or more lilies in honor of or in memory of loved ones, or another designation of your choice. To indicate your desire (how many and designation), please contact Karen in the church office, office@fpcbryan.org or 979.823.8073, **by Monday, April 5.**

Thank you! The Worship Committee

The **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** will be received thru **Easter, April 12.** OGHS is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Projects are underway in more than 100 countries (incl. the U.S. & Canada). In 2019, FPC-Bryan's generous donations to this offering yielded \$1,725 supporting **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%), Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), and Self-development of People (32%).** From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. At this time, your donations to this offering may be mailed to the church. *(The Stewardship & Finance Committee is currently researching an online payment platform as an additional option for giving to FPC-Bryan.)*



See Him

(A sermon for Palm Sunday in the age of Covid-19)

Luke 19:33-44
Rev. Emily K. Béghin

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Viewable online at: www.fpcbryan.org

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people cried out, “Hosanna!” Many knew who he was and had heard of his miracles, others came to the show wanting some fun.

They lined the pathway, crowding in together, hooting and hollering and rejoicing! Can you imagine the scene? How fun would it be to have a parade?

I think many of us have felt bogged down in this pandemic while sheltering in place. We want to break free and have reasons to shout Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! We want to party, to celebrate freedom and peace in our souls. Oh, for a little good news... a reason to shout hosanna!

The ironic thing is, hosanna literally means, Lord, Save us! Lord, please save us! We have every reason to shout it from our balconies right now. What better a time to shout, “Lord save us, Hosanna!” Go ahead, it’s online worship.

Pause this video and go outside and shout hosanna at the top of your lungs. If anything, it will at least release some of that tension in your shoulders.

The worst that could happen is your neighbors will finally think you’ve lost your marbles. Speaking of... where are your marbles? Have you had time to find them as you organize your closet again?

But truly, it is Palm Sunday after all and if there were ever a day...

In truth, today, like many of you probably, I feel a bit robbed. I picture this parade and I think of all the parades I have seen and now all I see are germs.

All the people, the food, the noise, the tight spaces... I just see germs. A joyous occasion has become a deadly trap. Lord, save us. Hosanna.

So much has been ruined. We all have plans and things that have been taken from us. Oh, Lord, for a little toilet paper, hosanna! For an embrace, Lord, hosanna. For some peace of mind...

Some of us have more than things and experiences that have been taken... some have people that have been taken from us. We’re scared. We want so badly to blame someone or something. Maybe then we could send it away.

We want to fight it; we want to run away from it. The problem is, we can’t do either. There is no fight or flight. There is only freeze and play dead and hope it ignores you. We are stuck and that is exhausting. That is what is so frustrating.

The people in Jerusalem who welcomed Jesus through the golden gates also felt stuck. They were subjects of a different kind of plague called the Roman Empire. They felt stuck with the roman authorities breathing down their necks.

They could not fight them, and they could not flee them. They wanted a savior who would defeat their oppressors: a miracle warrior, a revolutionary.

They called Jesus, Lord because they thought he had come to save them from their government when truly he had come to save them from themselves and these same people would kill him in 5 days when they found out.

Jesus stopped on his donkey for a moment as he rode through the people and he began to weep. He said, “Jerusalem, if only today you knew the things that make for peace, but you do not know them. They are hidden from your eyes.”

Jesus wasn’t what they wanted. He was what they *needed*, and they had no idea. The people wanted freedom from Rome, but they *needed* freedom from themselves. It’s a story old as time and we are just the next chapter.

How long have we existed day to day with our eyes closed? We walk through life with tunnel vision on the things we desire and sometimes we become so blind that we sacrifice the very things that we need in the name of what we want.

I think in this pandemic we have been forced to see the truth of what we need over and above what we desire.

Right now, the news is teeming with images of politicians pointing fingers back to back with images of makeshift morgues and empty streets, declining stocks, and exhausted doctors. People are angry, defensive, and hurt.

Our leaders have been arguing over who to blame. Many want someone to save us from a human evil and while we're busy looking for who to be mad at, this thing doesn't care who you are or how much money you have or how good of a person you have been.

We cannot run, we cannot fight, it is safe to say that at this moment in time, we have little control if any, so where is our peace?

What kind of peace are we needing, truly?

Jesus wept, "If only today you knew the things that make for peace, but you do not know them. They are hidden from your eyes."

So many are asking, where is God, now? Friends, I believe firmly that God created all good things. Not everything happens for a reason. Bad things happen sometimes, and sometimes devastating things happen, but they are not because of God.

God is the one crying with us, holding us while we're scared, loving us in our exhaustion, and hurting alongside us. God is also the one holding us up with joy, spreading beauty in an otherwise ugly time...

He rides not on the shoulders of powerful men, but in the hearts of the everyday people and in their gifts, he brings light to the world.

See him in the tired delivery man and sleepless trucker.

See him in the cafeteria workers in schools who continue to make meals for children in need.

See him in the construction worker who have given his mask to health worker.

Find him in the stitches of masks made by ordinary women who sew at home.

See him in the smiles of teachers who so quickly stepped up for their children.

Hear him in the musicians who lead cities in song from balconies high.

Meet him in the pastors and church staff who labor and wonder if it is enough out of love for their people.

See him in the parents who are exhausted.

Know him in the senior care workers.

And Lord, almighty see Jesus in the grocery workers who show up every day knowing it won't be easy. In the firemen, the policemen, the social workers, the hospice workers, nurses, doctors, residents, chaplains, and administrators who risk their lives and the lives of their families so that we might not lose ours.

Jesus comes to us on the back of a sturdy and steady pack mule. Hosanna!

Let us always remember these times when the world stopped, and love prevailed. May we not grow weary this Holy Week and, in the months, ahead. Stay vigilant.

Jesus bears all things with us now and his love shines forth brighter than any darkness that could ever consume, let us also bear with him in his march to the cross

and may we grow beyond what we were and hold onto what we have found and let us praise God in Jesus, the savior we need. Hosanna!

Amen.