

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 118)*

One: "Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord."

All: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

One: "Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!"

All: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

One: "O give thanks to the Lord who is so good. God's steadfast love endures forever."

All: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

***OPENING HYMN** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" GtG 197

One: Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;

**All: through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.**

One: To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,

**All: the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**

One: From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud;

**All: the Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.**

One: "Hosanna in the highest!"

All: That ancient song we sing,

for Christ is our Redeemer;
One: the Lord of heaven, our King.
All: O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

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***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Dear Lord, we say we believe in you,
but do we really mean it?
We say we trust you,
but do we really live it?
We say we know you,
but do our lives say something different?
Forgive us, loving and merciful God.
Forgive our shallow faith and our superficial commitment.
Fill us with your Spirit
that our hearts might cling to you.
Transform us by your power
that we might be faithful and true.
Re-make us in the image of your Son, Jesus Christ,
that we might reflect your glory
as your chosen and redeemed people.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The Lord is a God of mercy and compassion. We know this for certain
because of Jesus Christ.
All: In Christ, God seeks the lost and forgives the sinner and loves the
world.
One: So let us hear and believe this wonderful, good news.
All: That in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ we are loved.
Alleluia! Amen!

***THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

*(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod
of the head, etc.)*

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 118:19-29
Mark 11:1-10

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Plastic Palms and Hollow Hosannas” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Save us, O Lord...
People: ...for your mercy is great.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)*

**Our Father 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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God.
Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace,
your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining!
We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the
coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our
humble service. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “So Let Our Lips and Lives Express”

One: So let our lips and lives express
the holy gospel we profess;

**All: so let our works and virtues shine,
to prove the doctrine all divine.**

One: Thus shall we best proclaim abroad
the honors of our Savior God,

**All: when his salvation reigns within,
and grace subdues the power of sin.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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Our Maundy Thursday service is this week, April 1st, at 7:00 pm. We will join with our sisters and brothers of the Pacific Presbyterian Church in a joint service via Zoom. Those with email will receive the link for the service later this week. If you do not have email, you are strongly encouraged to join in with one of the phone numbers listed below. (Be prepared to enter in the Meeting ID # and then the Passcode #.)

Communion will be shared, so don't forget to have your communion elements at hand for the service.

Maundy Thursday service: April 1, 7:00 pm – via Zoom

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 861 3684 5692

Passcode: 308110