

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 118 & Matthew 21)*

- One: "Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey."  
All: "This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"  
One: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
All: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
Unison: "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty" GtG 198 [Tune 254]

1. **Ride on! ride on in majesty!**  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;  
thy humble beast pursues its road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.
2. **Ride on! ride on in majesty!**  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
3. **Ride on! ride on in majesty!**  
The hosts of angels in the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.
4. **Ride on! ride on in majesty!**  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;  
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Words: Henry Hart Milman, 1827, alt. *Public Domain.*  
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Trier ms., 15<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609. *Public Domain.*

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God,  
forgive us of our fickle faith  
and our failure to follow you.  
We cry out 'Hosanna!' so easily  
when we need you or think you can do something for us.  
But our voices can all too easily turn to 'Crucify!'  
when it is convenient for us or fits our agenda.  
Forgive us, gracious God; have mercy upon us.  
Forgive us, when we do not know what we are doing,  
and even when we do know what we are doing.  
Forgive us, not for our sakes,  
but for the sake of your Son,  
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Romans 5)*

One: In this we know the good news: "God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."  
All: **"If while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of the Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life."**  
One: So rejoice and believe in the good news.  
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are reconciled, we are given new life. Amen. Alleluia!**

## 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 READING John 11:1-45

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "From Death to Life: A Preview" by Pastor Bill Vincent

**\*HYMN** “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” GtG 274

**1. You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.**

**You, Lord, are both prince and slave.**

**You, peace-maker and sword-bringer  
of the way you took and gave.**

**You, the everlasting instant;  
you, whom we both scorn and crave.**

**2. Clothed in light upon the mountain,  
stripped of might upon the cross,**

**shining in eternal glory,  
beggared by a soldier’s toss,**

**you, the everlasting instant;  
you who are both gift and cost.**

**3. You, who walk each day beside us,  
sit in power at God’s side.**

**You, who preach a way that’s narrow,  
have a love that reaches wide.**

**You, the everlasting instant;  
you, who are our pilgrim guide.**

**4. Worthy is our earthly Jesus!**

**Worthy is our cosmic Christ!**

**Worthy your defeat and victory;  
worthy still your peace and strife.**

**You, the everlasting instant;  
you, who are our death and life.**

Music: PICARDY, French melody, 17<sup>th</sup> cent. *Public Domain.*

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984

*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd, Text Sylvia G. Dunstan.*

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**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

*(continued...)*

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One:** Reassure us with your promises, O God...

**All:** ...for “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER** (Traditional)

**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.**

### **OFFERING**

*Invitation*

*Reflection*

*\*Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**O God, as Jesus released Lazarus from the hands of death, may our ministry share with others the promise of new life. Accept the gifts that we offer to proclaim your love. Use our talents in ways that will set others free. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said” GtG 718 [*Tune 223*]

*(next page...)*

1. **Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me.**
  
2. **Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.**
  
3. **Take up your cross; heed not the shame,  
and let your foolish pride be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death  
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.**
  
4. **Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,  
and calmly every danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life  
and leads to victory o'er the grave.**

Words: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt. *Public Domain*.  
Tune: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1824. *Public Domain*.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One:           ...And let the gathered people of God say...  
All:            ...**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

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