

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 5, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP PALM SUNDAY

April 5, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. There is tension between the joy of this day and the shadow that is cast upon it by the cross that is sure to come. Thus, we begin with children singing "Lo, He Comes" and end with the haunting yet consoling music and text of "What Wondrous Love Is This." In this year of the lectionary (Year A), we read Matthew's version of the story which presents Jesus as a leader like Solomon who also enters Jerusalem on a donkey, according to 1 Kings 1:32-40. The sermon, which is rooted in this reading from Matthew, explores the motivations of the crowd which are often criticized but may be very much like ours and, in the end, appropriate. Like first-century Israelites being oppressed by the Roman Empire, we who are held captive in many ways by COVID-19 long for some real-world deliverance, and there may be hope for such deliverance in this story. Its trajectory propels us in the direction of the cross which offers redemption not just from personal ills but social and systemic ills as well. The entire story of Holy Week may not offer a cure for COVID-19, but it does provide empowerment for how to live as people of faith, hope, and love in a time like this.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

The Choral Introit

"Lo, He Comes"¹

John D. Horman

Members of the Elementary Children's Choir

Rhonda Lowe, pianist

Lo, he comes! Sing we "Hosanna!" Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord!

Lo, he comes! Sing we "Hosanna!" Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord!

Enter his gates with shouts of thanksgiving, into his courts with songs of praise,
Come, let us march in glad procession. Loud Hosannas now we raise.

Lo, he comes! Sing we "Hosanna!" Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord!

Lo, he comes! Sing we "Hosanna!" Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord!

Open your heart and welcome the Savior. Join with the song that has no end.
This is the day for which we have waited; the coming of our Lord is surely at hand.

Lo, he comes! Sing we "Hosanna!" Lo, he comes, let us sing to the Lord!

Lo, he comes, let us sing to the, sing to the Lord!

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 118

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

PEOPLE: **This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

LEADER: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PEOPLE: **Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!**

LEADER: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is God, and has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

LEADER: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

PEOPLE: **O give thanks to the Lord, who is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The Invocation

Trey Davis

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King;

to Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

WORDS: Jeannette Threlfall, 1873, alt.
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
 7.6.7.6.D.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Leah Reed

The Prayer of Confession (responsive)

LEADER: Suffering God, the way of the cross is a hard road.

PEOPLE: **It is draining. It is demanding. It is fraught with danger.**

LEADER: You ask us to stay by your side as you walk toward Calvary. But weariness and fear overtake us. Like the first disciples, we are quick

PEOPLE: **to betray you, to deny you, to abandon you.**

LEADER: Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of this world and to respond with compassion. As the darkness gathers,

PEOPLE: **renew our faith, fill us with hope, and startle us with your grace.**

The Silent Confession

The Words of Assurance

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Lynn Lingafelt

God of mercy, as we enter Holy Week with the echoes of our hosannas ringing in our ears, help us to avoid the near-sightedness of the people of old, who worshiped you as king on Sunday and chanted insults to you on Friday. Rather, embolden us in the reading of Holy Scripture, that we may remember your path to the cross and be reconciled anew to follow in the way of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus the Christ, amen.

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 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.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Another Awkward Story Filled with Hope”

The Musical Response

“Wondrous Love”²
Becky Mercer, flute

arr. John Purifoy

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
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,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great “I AM,”
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on!
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on!
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and through eternity I’ll sing on.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

The Postlude

“Blest Be the Tie”

arr. Anna Laura Page

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² "What Wondrous Love Is This" is in the public domain. The words are from an Appalachian folk hymn; S. Mead's *A General Selection*, 1811. The tune WONDROUS LOVE is from *Southern Harmony*, 1835. The flute arrangement by John Purifoy is from *Contemporary Hymn Settings*, © 1997 Lorenz Publishing Company.

The hymn tune and text for "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" are in the public domain.

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The rose on the altar is in celebration of the March 27 birth of Jack Edward Padget, son of **Zach Padget** and Alison Coppock and grandson of **Mary Tetro**.

All church activities are cancelled until further notice.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. We have received \$14,579 toward our goal of \$20,000.