

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 28, 2021

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
PALM SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

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 images of children bringing palms forward and the singing of "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" but end by singing "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded." The sermon explores the question of why Jesus even allows this day to happen when it will only irritate Roman authorities and could risk confusing his followers. While we might not be able to answer this question, simply asking it creates space to explore many implications of this day for us, which is a central task not just with Palm Sunday but all of Holy Week. We recall what happened and then ponder what it means for us.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

"Processional"  
Sue Crocker, organ

William Mathias

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 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 he 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

Michael Hood

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!

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession

Leah Reed

The Prayer of Confession (unison)†

**O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us and we turn against you, too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

The Act of Praise

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

ARISE

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "I will a-rise and go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O, there are ten thou - sand charms." The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Michael Hood

<sup>4</sup>The 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. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It 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.**

The Christian Testament

Philippians 2:5–11

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

The Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

The Musical Meditation

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"  
Emma and Sabrina Tyndall, handbells

Christine Anderson

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman  
"Why Jesus Allows This Day to Happen and What It Means for Us"

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Hymn of Discipleship

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

1. O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain;  
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round-ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown:  
 mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine;  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

yet, though de - spised and go - ry, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

## 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

“Fanfare”  
Sue Crocker, organ

William Mathias

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The tunes and texts of “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna,” “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy,” and “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” are in the public domain.

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You are invited to join us for worship in person on Easter Sunday, April 4, for an outdoor service at the Fred Fletcher Park Amphitheater (820 Clay Street, 27605). There will be 3 service times — 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., and the number of attendees is limited to 100 people at each gathering. Sign-up is required to attend, along with masks and social distancing. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9aa2eabfa7-easter>. Parking is available along the street or in a parking lot on Washington Street. Bring your own chair or blanket to sit on, as chairs will not be provided. There also will be a pre-recorded service from the Sanctuary on our YouTube channel at 11:00 a.m. This will be our rain plan, if the outdoor services are canceled due to weather. If the weather looks questionable, we will make a call early on Sunday morning and send out a mass email to keep you informed.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. As of March 25, we have received \$17,685.

## Calendar Highlights • March 28–April 3, 2021

Sunday, March 28      *Palm Sunday*

- 10:00      6th Grade Sunday School (Virtual)
- 7th and 8th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- High School Sunday School (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 11:00      Virtual Worship Service (YouTube)
- 2:00        3rd–5th Grade Sunday School (Zoom)
- 4:00        Three-year-olds – Kindergarten Sunday School (Zoom)
- 1st and 2nd Grade Sunday School (Lingafelt yard)
- 6:30        Youth Group (Zoom)
- 7:00        Minister of Music Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, March 29

- 8:00        Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 30

- 10:00      Ministerial Staff Meeting (Library)
- 6:00        Theology on Tap (Zoom/In-person TBD)
- 6:15        Middle School Gathering (Ellis home)
- 6:30        High School Boys Bible Study (Carter home)
- High School Girls Bible Study (Helms home)
- 7:30        Pathfinders Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 31

- 7:00        Youth Movie Night (Netflix Teleparty)

Thursday, April 1      *Maundy Thursday*

- 7:00        Band of Brothers (Zoom)

Friday, April 2        *Good Friday*

Office Closed