

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



April 2, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
PALM SUNDAY

April 2, 2023

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the beginning of Holy Week. It always involves a mixture of emotions as we remember what lies ahead for Jesus. The music and liturgy reflect the complexity of the day as we sing praises to Christ and wave palms in the air yet also confess sin and ponder our role in the events of this week. The sermon explores our desire to find a different outcome for this story, one in which Jesus does not have to die, but we ultimately acknowledge the inevitability of this outcome because of who we are and who Jesus is. The good news is that this story does not end with Palm Sunday nor does it end with Good Friday. We look to Easter, even as we approach the cross, and we see everything — in the story and in our lives — through the lens of the resurrection.

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

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 Prelude

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Maureen Howell

Paul Manz

The Introit

Psalm 118

KING OF GLORY

Hal H. Hopson, arr.

All:

**Refrain**

Bless-ed, yes, bless-ed is the One who now comes.

Bless-ed, yes, bless-ed is the One who now comes.

Choir:

Open the gates through which the righteous may enter;  
We will give thanks to God, our praises we'll render. **(Refrain)**

God in great mercy heard and answered our pleading;  
God is the God of all, yes, all gods exceeding. **(Refrain)**

See the great stone, the stone the builders rejected;  
Now it's the cornerstone, no longer neglected. **(Refrain)**

This is the day, the day the Lord has created;  
Let us be glad in it, the day long awaited. **(Refrain)**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

The Call to Praise

LEADER: Look! Your king is coming—humble and riding on a donkey.

PEOPLE: **Hosanna to the Son of David!**

LEADER: Lay your cloaks before him; spread palms to honor him.

PEOPLE: **Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

\*The Hymn of Procession, 204

ST. THEODULPH

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

### CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Choral Call to Confession

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

Words: Traditional

Music: Janet Lindeblad Janzen

The Prayer of Confession

LEADER: O God, we have kept silent when we should have spoken.

PEOPLE: **We have not always stood together, even when you stood for us.  
Have mercy.**

LEADER: We have spoken when we should have kept silent.

PEOPLE: **We have offered excuses when what you have asked for is  
obedience. Have mercy.**


LEADER: We have been guilty of denial and betrayal.

PEOPLE: **In mercy, heal what we have broken, nurture what we have  
neglected, so that we may know the peace of your wholeness.  
Amen.**

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

## The Act of Praise



We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for -  
giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Words and Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 50:4–9a

John Smith

<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 Hymn of Devotion, 127

ENGELBERG

“All Praise to Christ”

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

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 Moment of Reflection

“Meditation on ENGELBERG”  
Mark A. Miller, arr.

Becky Mercer, flute

## The Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying 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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."  
<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, <sup>5</sup>"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." <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The 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!" <sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The 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 Anthem

"The Tree of Life"

Sanctuary Choir

K. Lee Scott

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations; Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty. It's name is Jesus, name that says "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering; see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it, our spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it. See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."

This is my ending, this my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy. All heaven is singing "Thanks to Christ, whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Savior!

Words: Imre Király of Pécseli, c.1590-c.1641  
Erik Routley, tr. 1976

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.*

\*The Hymn of Discipleship

“Before the Cross of Jesus”

ST. CHRISTOPHER

**Before the cross of Jesus  
Our lives are judged today;  
The meaning of our eager strife  
Is tested by His Way.  
Across our restless living  
The light streams from His cross,  
And by its clear, revealing beams  
We measure gain and loss.**

**The hopes that lead us onward,  
The fears that hold us back,  
Our will to dare great things for God,  
The courage that we lack,  
The faith we keep in goodness,  
Our love, as low or pure -  
On all, the judgment of the cross  
Falls steady, clear, and sure.**

**Yet humbly, in our striving,  
O God, we face its test.  
We crave the pow'r to do Thy will  
With Him who did it best.  
On us let now the healing  
Of His great Spirit fall,  
And make us brave and full of joy  
To answer to His call.**

Words: Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929

Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1881



## DEPARTING TO SERVE

### \*The Benediction

LEADER: The cross,  
**PEOPLE: we shall take it;**  
LEADER: the bread,  
**PEOPLE: we shall break it;**  
LEADER: the pain,  
**PEOPLE: we shall bear it;**  
LEADER: the joy,  
**PEOPLE: we shall share it;**  
LEADER: the Gospel,  
**PEOPLE: we shall live it;**  
LEADER: the love,  
**PEOPLE: we shall give it;**  
LEADER: the light,  
**PEOPLE: we shall cherish it;**  
LEADER: the darkness,  
**PEOPLE: God shall perish it.**

### \*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

“Toccata on ST. THEODULPH”  
Michael Burkhardt

Maureen Howell

\*The congregation may stand.

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The Prayer of Confession adapted from *Unfolding the Living Word*, © 2012 Jim Cotter, published by Canterbury Press; and The Benediction (adapted) from the Wild Goose Worship Group of the Iona Community.

The Deacon on Call is John Smith. A 12-year member, John is a member of the Pathfinder's Class and is married to Harriet Smith.

The sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Maddrey by their children and wives, Charles and Rose Maddrey and Joseph and Libby Maddrey.

An offering for the Mike Morris Fellowship Fund is received the first Sunday of each month. This fund helps persons seeking emergency aid. Collection baskets are at each exit.

Due to next week's being Holy Week, we will not have a Centerpoint gathering and our regular Wednesday night activities (except adult choir practice, which will be held at 7pm that night) on April 5.

Maundy Thursday communion service will be held on April 6 at 7pm in the sanctuary.

The new Sunday School class is looking for a couch and upholstered chairs for their classroom. If you have any furniture you'd like to donate, please contact Tonya Carter at [tonyacarter5@gmail.com](mailto:tonyacarter5@gmail.com).

If you are interested in being a part of a new Sunday School class for young couples, join us in room 224 on Sundays at 9:45am. For additional information, please contact Lou Anne and John Liverman ([louanne.live@gmail.com](mailto:louanne.live@gmail.com)) or Tonya and Lin Carter ([tonyacarter5@gmail.com](mailto:tonyacarter5@gmail.com)).

The Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. So far, we have received \$22,729, surpassing our goal of \$20,000.

Diaper changing stations are located in the men's and women's bathrooms on each floor of the Lewis building, and a nursing room is located in our preschool suite on the first floor.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship bags are located in the narthex and in the Gathering Room; preschoolers (birth – kindergarten) are also welcome to join the supervised play in the preschool suite on first floor.

## **Calendar Highlights**

### **April 2-9**

Sunday, April 2            *Palm Sunday*

- 9:45        Sunday School
- 11:00        Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)  
              JBC worship (226)

Monday, April 3

- 10:00        Clothing ministry open for USCRI groups only
- 6:30        High school Bible study (Wade home)  
              Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, April 4

- 10:00        Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45        WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00        WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 7:00        Properties Committee meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 5

- 7:00        Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, April 6

- 7:00        Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30        Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
- 7:00        Maundy Thursday service/Communion (sanctuary)

Friday, April 7            *Good Friday*

Church office closed

Sunday, April 9            *Easter*

- 8:30        JBC worship and potluck (fellowship hall)
- 9:30        Hiott class in sanctuary
- 9:45        Sunday School
- 11:00        Worship (sanctuary & YouTube)