



Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Scripture — Mark 11:1-11

Prelude

All Glory, Laud and Honor
NPC Bell Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

Call to Worship

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! We praise you O God!

Rejoice greatly, O children of God! Shout aloud, O children of the Lord

**Look: Our king comes to us; triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! We praise you today, O God.

*Hymn #197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang; through pillard court and temple the joyful anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd, the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud; the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state, nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing, for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King. O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice, and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Remembering our Baptisms

Prayers of Praise

We praise you, O God,
for your redemption of the world through Jesus your Christ.
**Today he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph
and was proclaimed Messiah and King
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.
Let our own words of praise be signs of his victory,
and grant that all who worship you today
may follow him in the way of his cross,
that, dying and rising with him,
we may enter into your kingdom.**

Hear now our affirmations of praise and thanksgiving ...

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus said:
**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**
This is the greatest and first commandment.
And the second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Scripture — Psalm 118, selections

Hymn #196

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Refrain **All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name comest, the King and blessed One.** To Refrain

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.** To Refrain

**To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.** To Refrain

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!** To Refrain

Moment for Mission — Macon Recovers

LISTENING

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Scripture

Philippians 4:8-9
John 12:12-16

Sermon

Palm Sunday: Following Jesus even when we do not understand

DEPARTING

*Hymn #726

Will You Come and Follow Me

9

"Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
"Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
"Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

18

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

28

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*Affirmation of Faith — Presbyterian Brief Statement 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.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

*Departing Prayer

*Benediction

*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

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Information & Announcements

Welcome to our guests!

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information with us so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship. You may email our church office at admin@northminstermacon.org.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Ralph welcomes and encourages opportunities to share in fellowship, pastoral conversation, and spiritual discernment. He keeps office hours most mornings at the church, but is always available by appointment. You are always welcome to call or text at 478-250-3355 or to reach out by email: pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org

Lectionary Readings

Mar 28, Palm Sunday – Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 4:1-15

April 4, Resurrection Sunday – Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Karen Jones; Jewel James; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; John Hurst; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Fran Mayhew; Betty Barlow; Suzann Smith; Jack Gleaton; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Kirk Knox;

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; T. Wright Goodwin, IV; James C Watwood; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine

Youth Group – Today following worship

The time has FINALLY come! We are excited to announce that youth activities will begin this month and we have some great things planned! We will be doing a lot of fun, but meaningful, projects, so mark your calendars. The first one will be today directly after worship. Lunch will be provided and the activity will follow. The other dates are April 11 (after worship), April 25, May 16, and May 23 (times to be determined). We will plan out the rest of the year later this spring. We look forward to seeing everyone on March 28!!

Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities. You may donate online, by mail, or in person. Special offering envelopes will be provided in your bulletin on Easter morning (April 4 – the final day of collection).

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News

SESSION of Ruling Elders: Kari Alderman; Emily Brown; Lynn Denny; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh; Beau Kitchens; Melissa McDougald; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway; Minor Vernon

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate

SANDRA SMITH, Music Director KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session

BENJAMIN GAIL, Sexton JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

Office hours this week: Monday - Thursday 8:00-1:00

O most high, almighty, good Lord God,
to Thee belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing!

Praised be my Lord God with all His creatures, and specially our brother the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the light; fair is he and shines with a very great splendor: O Lord, he signifies to us Thee!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars, the which He has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for the air and cloud, calms and all weather by the which Thou upholdest life in all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water, who is very serviceable unto us and humble and precious and clean.

Praised be my Lord for our brother fire, through whom Thou givest us light in the darkness; and he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the earth, the which doth sustain us and keep us, and bringeth forth divers fruits and flowers of many colors, and grass.

Praised be my Lord for all those who pardon one another for His love's sake, and who endure weakness and tribulation; blessed are they who peaceably shall endure, for Thou, O most Highest, shalt give them a crown.

Praised be my Lord for our sister, the death of the body, from which no man escapeth. Woe to him who dieth in mortal sin! Blessed are they who are found walking by Thy most holy will, for the second death shall have no power to do them harm.

Praise ye and bless the Lord, and give thanks unto Him and serve Him with great humility.

St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)

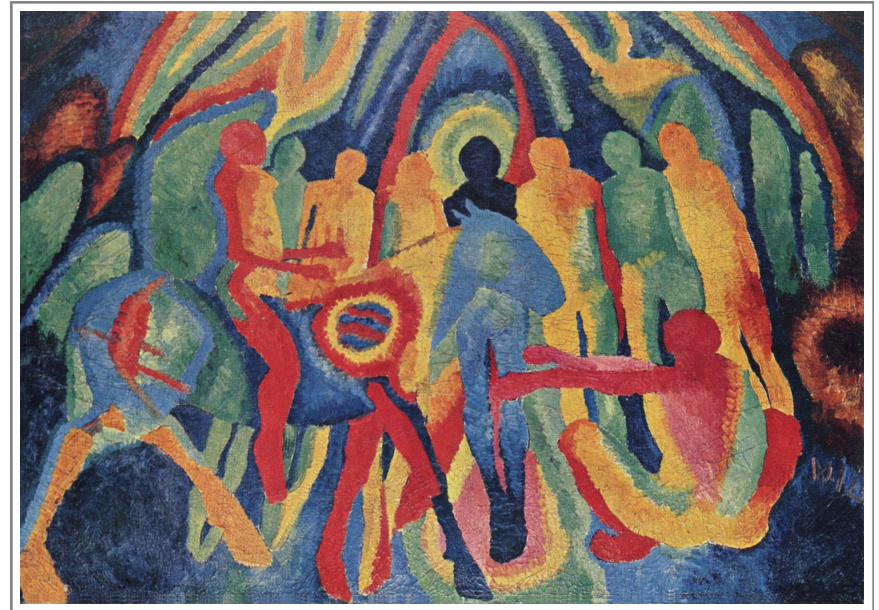
Monday Morning

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.
Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

John 12:12-16



“Entry of Christ into Jerusalem” by Wilhelm Morgner, 1912

Morgner (1891-1917) was a German Expressionist painter, was trained for the clergy, although he quickly turned to painting as his calling. His close identification with Jesus Christ manifested itself in works that expressed his powerful understanding of the Passion, exemplified here by his color-saturated vision of the Entry into Jerusalem. Sadly, he died a young man, one of millions, on the fields of Flanders during World War I. Still, his discipline to his work left enough paintings to allow reflection upon the creative response to a deep faith and love of Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, open my eyes to the wonder of your benevolence. The blessings and riches you give me have become ordinary. Grant that I see again the miraculous in them and that I praise you for what I'm permitted to savor each day.

Tägliche Bitten, ins Deutsche übertragen von Adelheid Schloemann

Palm/Passion Sunday is, by design, a day of drama and paradox, of triumph and tragedy. As the service begins, a crowd gathers, waving branches and shouting "Hosanna" (Hebrew for save us), and wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of Christ's passion unfolds, the shouts of praise turn into demands for his death. Jesus is handed over to be mocked, tortured, and killed; the crown he receives is one of thorns. For a number of reasons, it is important to preserve the paradox of Palm/ Passion Sunday, celebrating this liturgy in its fullness.

First, the service is established on the theological principle that Jesus' death and resurrection cannot be separated. It insists that we not avoid the cross—God's way of glory leads through the grave. Indeed, there is a clear path through this service, connecting Jesus' journey to Jerusalem with his triumphal entry into the new Jerusalem, where the white-robed multitudes will again take up their palms, shouting: "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9–10). Second, since many people are unable to attend the midweek worship services of Holy Week, the Palm/Passion liturgy ensures that they will hear the whole story of Jesus' dying and rising—not skipping from "hosanna" to "hallelujah." Third, this pattern of worship at the beginning of Holy Week has ancient origins, dating to at least the fourth century and reflecting the theological, pastoral, and liturgical wisdom of the early church.

Presbyterian Book of Common Worship

Jesus, King of the universe:
ride on in humble majesty,
ride on through conflict and debate,
ride on through sweaty prayer and betrayal of friends,
ride on through mockery and unjust condemnation,
ride on through cruel suffering and ignoble death,
ride on to the empty tomb and your rising in triumph,
ride on to raise up your Church, a new body for your service,
ride on, King Jesus, to renew the whole earth in your image:
in compassion come to help us.

from *Service for All Seasons*, Andhra Theological College, 1973

HOSANNA

A joyful Aramaic exclamation of praise, apparently specific to the major Jewish religious festivals (especially Passover and Tabernacles) in which the Egyptian *Hallel* (Psalms 113-118) was recited. Originally an appeal for deliverance (Hebrew: HOSIA NA, or "Please save," such as in Psalm 118:25), it came in liturgical usage to serve as an expression of joy and praise for deliverance granted or anticipated. When Jesus came to Jerusalem for his final presentation of himself to Israel, the expression came readily to the lips of the Passover crowds.

John H. Stek, in *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

Jennette Threlfall, 1873

As he rides into Jerusalem surrounded by people shouting 'hosanna,' 'cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path,' Jesus appears completely concentrated on something else. He does not look at the excited crowd. He does not wave. He sees beyond all the noise and movement to what is ahead of him: an agonizing journey of betrayal, torture, crucifixion, and death. There is a deep awareness of the unspeakable pain to be suffered, but also a strong determination to do God's will. Above all, there is love, an endless, deep and far-reaching love born from an unbreakable intimacy with God and reaching out to all people, wherever they are, were, or will be. There is nothing that he does not fully know. There is nobody whom he does not fully love.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Let us imitate those who have gone out to meet Jesus,
not scattering olive branches or garments or palm in his path,
but spreading ourselves before him as best we can,
with humility of soul and upright purpose.

Andrew of Crete (c. 660-740)