

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Palm/Passion Sunday
April 13, 2025

10:30 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service



GATHER

Let all enter the sanctuary in a spirit of prayer.

Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.

*Those who are able may stand

Please remember to turn your cell phones to silent.

*This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation - Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!
And remember that you can place a request in the Prayer Journal
in the comments on both You Tube and Facebook Live.*

Prelude

Diademata
Genià Ensemble

George L. Elvey, arr. S. Pethel

Lighting the Christ Candle

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Call to Worship

The story of Palm Sunday tells of how
people removed their cloaks and spread them out
in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

**The cloak we wear every day to face the world
is both the persona we wish to present,
and our defense against the elements.**

As we come to worship may we be willing
to lay down our defenses and disguises,
at the feet of the One who sees us we really are.

**And then, set free for worship,
may we offer our praises
with open hearts and lives.**

* **Hymn 197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
(see next page for hymn)

Ellacombe

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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 joy - ful 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.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

With eager hearts and open hands, Holy One,
we welcome Jesus,
until he refuses the power we offer him,
choosing to become our servant.

We pick up the faith we had laid on the ground before him,
and put it back on the shelf where it belongs.

Our pride keeps us from being able to follow him
all the way to Calvary.

Hosanna, Steadfast God, save us!

Help us to let our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness
slip from our lives to fall at your feet,
so we may stand with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
who comes in your name,
in your glory,
in your grace to save us.

Assurance of Grace

* Sharing the Peace

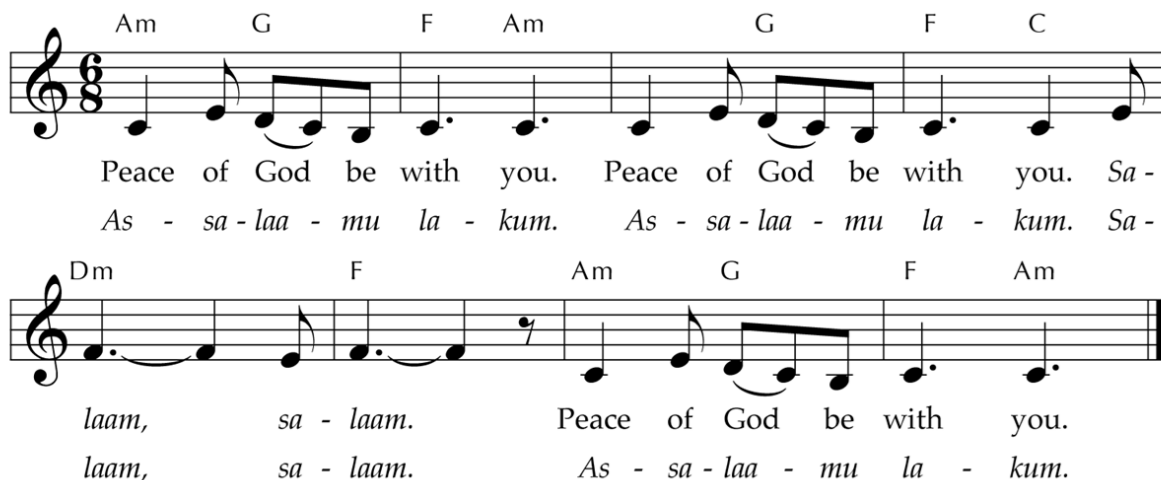
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*(We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart
or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home,
greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)*

* Response of Peace 448 (singing together)

As-Salaamu Lakum



Am G F Am G F C

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -

Dm F Am G F Am

laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

Words of Welcome

*Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information on the
Visitor Card in the pew rack! Place the Visitor Card in the offering plate.*

ENCOUNTER

Anthem

Hosanna in the Highest

Allan Robert Petker

Choir only:

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Sing Praises to the blessed Son of David.

Sing wonderful, marvelous glorious praise to Jesus Christ the King,

Give glory and honor and majesty to the Lord for whom we sing.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the King of Kings.

The children sang His name; their King they did proclaim:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Hosannas filled the air, with praises and with prayers. May Jesus Christ be praised.

Palm branches arched the sky as King and colt passed by;

May Jesus Christ be praised.

He is the King of Kings; to him our praises sing.

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Congregation:

**Sing glory in the highest to God for He has blessed us,
may Jesus Christ be praised.**

With heart and life and voice eternally rejoice.

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Luke 19:36-40

³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.

Parents can pick up their children following worship.

Older children, grades 2-5, may go with Ms. Virginia Callegary to The Worship Bridge. They will return to the sanctuary later in the worship service.

(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)

**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.**

Thanks be to God!

*** Hymn 196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
(see next page for hymn)

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

to Refrain

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

Second Lesson: Luke 23:33-46a

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." ⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus...

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

Sermon

What If?

Kenneth Page

(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

RESPOND AND SERVE

Anthem

O, Love

Elaine Hagenberg

*O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,
O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

**God of the foolish cross,
tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey,
You are not the savior we expect.**

Your power doesn't look like the power we want our God to demonstrate.
 Your wisdom makes no sense to us.
 We are happy to join the crowd, waving branches,
 But not so sure we want to follow you
 into the temple courts
 into the upper room
 into the Garden of Gethsemane
 to the foot of the cross.
 Forgive our false assumptions.
 Clarify our clouded vision.
 Let us relax into the foolishness of your love, your grace.
 Save us, we beseech you!

The Offering

Offertory

Salvation is Created
Genià Ensemble

Pavel Chesnokov, arr. M. Brian

* **Doxology 608** (*singing together*)

Praise God (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
 peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -
 more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

* **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

SEND AND BLESS

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Minute for Mission

FUNdraising & Games for Coffee Micro Grants

Update from the PNC

* **Hymn 221**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Passion Chorale

Verse 1: All

Verse 2: Choir

Verse 3: All

Maren, violin

(see next page for hymn)

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

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 - gres - 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 gor - y, 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.

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.

Passion Narrative: Mark 14:17-15:39

Stripping of the Sanctuary

Postlude

Choral Dorien

Jehan Alain



Genià Ensemble Members

Kathy, Lindsay - flutes

Stephanie - clarinet

Craig - tenor saxophone

Jim - bassoon

Ken - horn

Paul - trumpet

Callum, Todd - trombones

Jeff - percussion

Maren, Mary - violins

Eddie - cello

Guest Musician

Kathie Metz – organ

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.

During Today's Worship

If your infant or child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. We have a texting system to alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

If you are new to First Presbyterian Church

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

Disabled persons entrance is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

We invite you to become a member of First Presbyterian Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, www.firstpreshc.org for more info.

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-712246. All rights reserved.

Music performing rights for livestream provided by Christian Copyright Solutions License #12803.

Permission to livestream the music during this service obtained from CCLI License No. 21392482. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint music in this service obtained from CCLI License No. 21392499. All rights reserved.



The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshc.org

Ministers: All members of the congregation

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries
Megan Bondhus, Church Administrator
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✦ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✦

✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115

